

Al Faisali win Jordan Cup final

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Faisali Friday beat Al Wihdat 2-1 to win the Jordan Cup final — the second of the season's four soccer championships. On their way to the final, Al Faisali scored an overwhelming 5-0 win over surprise qualifiers first division champs Al Turra, while Al Wihdat managed a 2-0 win over Al Jazireh. Al Faisali are the Jordan Cup record holders with nine previous titles and last won it in 1995, while Al Wihdat won the event five previous times including the last two years. The Jordan Cup grouped 40 teams representing the Premier League as well as the first and second divisions. Al Wihdat currently lead the Premier League Championship and are looking for their 5th consecutive title.

Jordan Times

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'Iraqi decision did not violate U.N. resolutions'

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Iraq's decision to freeze cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors did not technically violate U.N. resolutions and a February accord, a U.N. Security Council member said Friday. The council member, who declined to be identified, told reporters here that the 15-member council decided Thursday that because the Iraqi threat had "not yet led to any action," the decision could not be considered a breach of international law. As a result, the diplomat said, there was no discussion of "severe consequences" that the council had threatened in March in case of a violation of the Feb. 23 agreement signed by U.N. chief Kofi Annan and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

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King: Treatment progressing satisfactorily

King to Regent: *I support you and stand by you; my confidence in you unwavering*
'We await water commission report in order to deal with the situation once and for all'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday expressed unwavering confidence in HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and appreciation for the Prince's efforts and his action to set up a commission to investigate water contamination.

"I am following with much appreciation all that you are doing in the service of our homeland and I support you and stand by you; my confidence in you unwavering and my hopes in you great," the King said in a letter addressed to the Regent.

The King said he was comforted by the Regent's action to set up an able and impartial commission to determine the responsibility for the contaminated water.

The King, who left Mayo Clinic for a few days rest in Washington D.C., told the Regent that the interests of the country and people were the dearest to his heart.

"The important thing is that we realise that the provision of water, food, medicine and education in a safe and democratic environment is one of the main purposes of our life on all levels of government," the King said.

The King, however, criticised the government for being lax in carrying its duties and responsibilities. He cited some examples that would have led to disasters.

One example he said was a near air miss between two aircraft in the vicinity of Amman because air traffic controllers left their station for prayer.

"The measures taken against them [the controllers] were insignificant for fear of possible lawsuits that they may file and win against the government, an excuse that is worse than the sin itself," the King said.

"Then comes the incident

in the thermal station in Aqaba due to lack of maintenance and negligence.

"Then the recent issue of water," he said.

All these incidents, the King said, make it imperative to "take proper action against any mistake or act of negligence."

The King added that government leaders and people should deal with issues with a high degree of transparency.

"We are awaiting the report of the [water] commission to find out who was responsible for neglecting the water filters until they became defective and ineffective," the King said.

"We are anxiously awaiting to find out in order to take the appropriate action to deal with the situation once and for all," the King said.

Following is the full text of the King's message

Your Royal Highness,

My brother Crown Prince El Hassan Ben Talal, the Regent

Greetings.

I have just received your brief on the peace negotiations and I pray to God that He may guide all parties to the path of an honourable, just and lasting peace, now and before it is too late.

We pray that they realise the real dangers that loom ahead should procrastination and shortsightedness obstruct the vision of the broader picture, and prevent seeing the great dangers to all peoples, the sons of Abraham, may peace be upon him, and to the future generations and their right to a safe existence and a dignified life.

The road to peace, it should be realised, requires achieving mutual respect based on mutual respect among the negotiating parties, as well as an understanding of what responsibility means.

It should be understood that there are no winners nor losers in this equation, but a tragic loss for all and wasted opportunities of serious work, to achieve that which would win the blessing of God, if the status quo marked by shortsightedness and focusing



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, is flanked by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Hashem and Prince Abdullah on his right and Prince Rasheed on his left during prayers Friday. Royal Court Chief Fayez Tarawneh performs prayers alongside Prince Rasheed (Photo by Youssef 'Allan)

King takes leave from Mayo

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday said he was given "leave" from Mayo Clinic, where he has been undergoing treatment for lymphoma since July 14.

"Their decision [the doctors'] came as a result of the tangible improvement in my condition, and after the improvement of the blood count which expectedly went down after the first cycle of treatment as well as the accelerated progress towards normalcy," the King said in a letter to HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

The King said he was "pleasantly surprised" that the doctors permitted him to leave the clinic for Washington before starting the new round of chemotherapy on Wednesday.

The King said his morale is high and that Jordan and Jordanians were in his thoughts. However, he said, he was advised by the doctors "to avoid public places to protect against infection before the blood count goes back to normal and before starting the new cycle of treatment."

on small issues as well as instilling despair over the desired peace prevails.

We will unequivocally continue to support with all our strength our brethren, the people of Palestine, until the just and lasting peace that we all seek is achieved.

We will utilise our relations with all, those near and far in order to realise that objective.

May God help them and us to do our utmost in this regard.

My beloved brother...

I am following with much appreciation all that you are doing in the service of our homeland and I support you

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'No losers, nor winners in peace equation'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday expressed hope that all parties to the Middle East peace process would pursue the right path to a just and honourable peace.

In a letter to HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, the King criticised those who do "realise the real dangers that loom ahead should procrastination and shortsightedness obstruct the vision of the broader picture, and prevent seeing the great dangers to all peoples... the future generations and their right to a safe existence and a dignified life."

"The road to peace, it should be realised, requires achieving mutual trust based on mutual respect among the negotiating parties, as well as an understanding of what responsibility means," the King said in a reply to a message the Regent sent on Thursday briefing the King on the latest round of talks the Crown Prince held with Palestinian and Israeli officials in Amman on Thursday.

"It should be understood that there are no winners nor losers in this equation; but a tragic loss for all and wasted opportunities of serious work, to achieve that which would win the blessing of God, if the status quo marked by shortsightedness and focusing on small issues as well as instilling despair over the desired peace prevails, the King said.

He said Jordan and Jordanians "will unequivocally continue to support with all our strength our brethren, the people of Palestine, until the just and lasting peace that we all seek is achieved."

We will utilise our relations with all, those near and far in order to realise that objective.

Meanwhile, Prince Hassan on Thursday held separate meetings with senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat and Israeli Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

The Regent told Jordan Television after the talks that time has come for the U.S. "to accept that while its principal has been to invite the parties to negotiate... it is now time to consolidate that achievement and to put it on the agenda... as a full partner in the peace process."

"We believe the U.S. has to exercise, particularly at this time, its responsibility and clarify that it is interested in the Palestinian-Israeli dimension," the Regent said.

"We see in the U.S. proposals a positive step towards overcoming current obstacles

facing the peace process," he added.

The Regent was referring to differences between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel over a long overdue redeployment from 13 per cent of the West Bank, as proposed by the U.S., which the Palestinians accepted in March.

Israel has been stalling on the U.S. proposals and has reportedly accepted a pull-out from 10 per cent this time and suggested the remaining three per cent be declared a "natural reserve zone" under Palestinian administration but with responsibility for security under Israel.

The Prince, who received letters from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the outcome of recent talks between the two sides, urged Israel to proceed with its long-delayed redeployment.

"This is a moment to close a chapter and to start a new chapter," he said. Israel and the Palestinians should "close the chapter of the second redeployment to move on to the question of the third redeployment, the question of final status."

Prince Hassan especially lauded the Palestinian negotiators and described their contribution as effective.

"We believe that they have arrived at a point in time where the possibility of a breakthrough is tangible," the Regent said.

He said Jordan, while promoting its own interests, can recognise that "the Palestinians are clearly not going to move other than on a principled basis... they are not moving out of politeness to us or to anyone else."

The Palestinians, the Regent said, are committed to their agreements with Israel and the U.S.

Following his meeting with Prince Hassan, Dr. Erekat told reporters that he briefed the Regent on the recent round of talks with the Israeli side and asked him to mediate with the U.S. to make its initiative public.

"We have exerted all possible efforts as Palestinians, Jordanians and Egyptians in order to bring the peace process back on track," Dr. Erekat said. "But what the Israelis came up with in our last session was not only inconsistent with the terms of reference provided for in the interim agreement but also inconsistent with the

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After reassuring people on King's health Majali: Government resignation was not discussed during trip

If it is proven a person is responsible, even the prime minister, he should be punished

By Tariq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Doctors supervising the chemotherapy sessions for His Majesty King Hussein at Mayo Clinic have allowed him to leave the hospital for a few days, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Friday.

Dr. Majali, who was speaking to reporters upon arrival from the United States after visiting the King in Rochester, Minnesota, said that the medical reports indicated that the results of treatment were encouraging.

"His Majesty and doctors have assured me about his health following the first round of chemotherapy which was concluded successfully," Dr. Majali said.

"On Thursday, doctors have decided that he would be able to leave the hospital which he has already done. He went to Washington for

a few days before returning for the second round of treatment," the prime minister said.

"Everybody has assured us that [the King's case] is curable and hope is great that it will be successful and that it moves according to expectations," he added.

"His Majesty's spirits are high. He wants to assure everybody about his health and that he is in good shape," Dr. Majali told reporters.

On July 14, the King flew to Mayo Clinic for medical check-ups complaining of recurrent fever and cold sweats.

The prime minister said that the committee that was established to investigate the water problem in the country will decide who are responsible for the crisis.

"When things become clear, facts are revealed and [the committee] decides that there is negligence or responsibility on any party whatever the position they

that his health should be our concern and that he should receive the appropriate treatment," he added.

Dr. Majali said that he briefed the King about regional and domestic developments, especially regarding "Parliament, the draft press and publications law and the water [problem] in the country."

"His Majesty's instructions were clear," the prime minister said. "What concerns him most is the people."

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80 dead, 1,200 injured in two American embassies' blasts

NAIROBI (R) — Two huge bomb blasts at U.S. embassies in east Africa on Friday killed up to 80 people, injured about 1,200 and brought morning rush-hour carnage to the streets of Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

Hundreds of blood-covered workers at the two embassies and nearby buildings ran screaming into the streets after the coordinated attacks in the Kenyan and Tanzanian capitals, which were barely 10 minutes apart.

Passengers in a bus caught by the Nairobi blast were incinerated in their seats.

President Clinton denounced the attacks as cowardly and inhuman and vowed to bring the bombers to justice.

Rescue workers dug through mountains of rubble for hours after the blast and continued into the night, desperately searching for survivors.

But already claims were surfacing that the bulk of the effort in Nairobi was being directed to rescuing

embassy staff rather than local victims in nearby buildings.

No one claimed responsibility for either attack, but as recently as this week, Egypt's banned Jihad group said it would retaliate for Washington's help in extraditing Islamists to Cairo from Albania.

An embassy spokesman in Nairobi said at least eight

(Continued on page 7)

Albright condemns 'arbitrary, cowardly' blasts

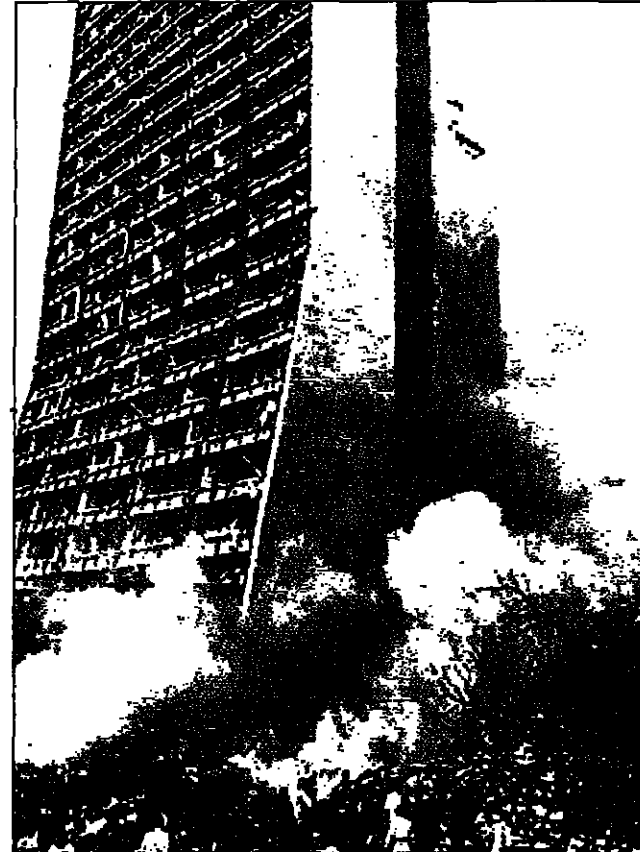
ROME (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Friday's two killer bomb blasts outside United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were "cruel, senseless, arbitrary and cowardly" and would not go unpunished.

Ms. Albright told a news conference she would cut short a private visit to Rome and return to Washington immediately to discuss a response to the attacks, which killed up to 80 people and injured more than 1,000.

"Based on what we have learned so far this was clearly a terrorist act," she said. "The aim was clearly to murder and maim as many innocent people as possible — Americans, Kenyans and Tanzanians."

"We don't yet know who did it or why but whatever their motives, whatever their cause, it is utterly discredited by this cruel, senseless, arbitrary and cowardly destruction."

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Smoke rises Friday from the site of the huge explosion at the U.S. embassy in central Nairobi. U.S. ambassador Prudence Bushnell was slightly hurt in the blast, which reduced a five or six-story building to rubble (AFP photo)

Kurds 'unconcerned' by Iraqi troop movements

ANKARA (R) — A Kurdish group said on Friday it was not very concerned by recent movements of Iraqi troops near the Kurdish-held city of Erbil in northern Iraq.

"There was a movement about 10 days ago but it appears to be a rotation of troops without any increase in numbers," the Kurdistan Democratic Party's (KDP) Ankara representative Safen Dizayee told Reuters.

"Our people have monitored it closely and carefully." An exiled Iraqi opposition group said on Thursday that forces from the elite Iraqi Presidential Guards backed by armoured units began arriving north of the city of Mosul and around the town of Erbil two days ago.

The report came after the breakdown of talks between chief United Nations arms inspector Richard Butler and top

Iraqi officials in Baghdad. Arbil is part of an enclave in northern Iraq controlled by Kurdish groups. The area has been patrolled by a U.S.-led air force since shortly after the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

The KDP, led by Massoud Barzani, briefly fought alongside Iraqi troops to seize Erbil from a rival Kurdish faction in 1996. The incident prompted U.S. military strikes on Iraqi targets in southern Iraq.

Iraqi newspapers seek to put positive spin on standoff

BAGHDAD (AP) — Seeking to put a positive spin on Iraq's new dispute with U.N. arms inspectors, official newspapers Friday focused on Secretary General Kofi Annan's comments recognising Iraq's frustrations with economic sanctions.

The Al Thawra newspaper reported Mr. Annan's statement Thursday that diplomacy should be used to solve the dispute over Iraq's decision this week to freeze cooperation with U.N. arms inspectors.

Mr. Annan made the comments after the U.N. Security Council termed Iraq's position "totally unacceptable." It had earlier heard a report by chief weapons inspector Richard Butler, whose talks with Iraq collapsed earlier this week.

But two Iraqi newspapers — the only ones printed Friday — did not report the Security Council statement.

Instead, Al Thawra and Al Iraq published an official Iraqi News Agency report from New York saying Iraq has informed the Security Council about its "legal stand" and had complained about the U.N. Special Com-

mission's "tricks." Iraq says UNSCOM, which is charged with eliminating the country's weapons of mass destruction, is manipulated by the United States and is deliberately prolonging its work to keep the sanctions in place.

Until UNSCOM certifies that Iraq is free of illegal weapons, the sanctions, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, will not be lifted. The sanctions ban the free sale of oil. Iraq's main export.

On Thursday, Mr. Annan said the Iraqis "seem to have gained the view that whatever they do and all their efforts to comply or what they call satisfactory compliance has not been recognised... I think the frustrations came through if not desperation," Mr. Annan said he consulted with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz about the dispute and "I believe the Iraqi position on this issue is not a closed one."

It might be helpful to engage the Iraqis much more closely than we have," he added. The Iraqi papers reported these comments and also heaped their usual criticism

on United States. "We know as well as the whole Arab World that the United States, not Iraq, is the party which does not implement its commitments under U.N. resolutions," Al Thawra said.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein announced Wednesday that UNSCOM inspectors will no longer be allowed to search for weapons. But he exempted U.N. monitors, who keep an eye on previously inspected areas, from the restrictions.

On Friday, a U.N. team of monitors headed out as usual to an undisclosed site for surveillance work, but no inspection teams were seen leaving the U.N. headquarters.

U.N. officials in Baghdad were not available for comment. On Thursday, the inspectors were effectively blocked from working when the Iraqi government told them that no escorts will be provided. Under a U.N. agreement the inspectors must be accompanied by Iraqi escorts everywhere they go.

French designer Pierre Cardin plans millennium lighthouse for Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA (AFP) — French couturier Pierre Cardin is to build an obelisk-shaped "peace" lighthouse for this Mediterranean port city as it prepares to enter the new millennium.

The glass structure will replace the ancient lighthouse of Alexandria — one of the seven wonders of the world — which was destroyed in 1349 after a series of earthquakes struck the city.

"For this third millennium we will build a 150-metre lighthouse of peace in Alexandria, the cradle of civilisation," Mr. Cardin told AFP in a telephone interview from his office in Paris.

The new lighthouse will be 30 metres from the ancient one which was built in the 3rd century B.C.

"Building it will cost 450 million francs (\$75 million) and we will invite all peace-loving people across the world to buy shares," Mr. Cardin said.

"The Eiffel tower marked the beginning of the 20th century. This lighthouse will symbolise the dawn of the third millennium."

um," said Mr. Cardin, who plans to unveil his monument in the year 2000.

Hieroglyphics, Greek, Latin and Arabic letters will decorate each side of the obelisk, which will be flooded in fluorescent light. "The different alphabets are meant to show the four civilisations which contributed to the wealth of this city," said project designer Jacques Darolles who runs the state-run National Center of Arts and Technology in Reims, France.

Mr. Darolles described the lighthouse as a "an obelisk of light," with beams shining from the top to flood Alexandria's main monuments.

He also hopes to build a "futurescope" next door, where visitors will be treated on giant television screens to pictures of the latest Egyptian and regional archaeological discoveries.

"I want to pay tribute Egypt and present it with this obelisk as a sign of gratitude for the obelisk which it gave us," he said, referring to the monument that stands in Paris' Place de la Concorde given by Egypt to France in 1836.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish government ponders reopening casinos

ANKARA (AP) — Just six months after it outlawed gambling casinos, the Turkish government is thinking of opening them again to lure back tourists. A tourism ministry official, Vahit Aras, said Friday that the cabinet has ordered the ministry to draft new legislation. He said the order came after Thursday's cabinet meeting. Mr. Aras said the idea is to set up special gambling areas "open only to foreigners." The government closed down the country's 76 casinos in February saying they were a haven for money launderers, tax evaders and gangsters. The ministry says tourism got off to a slow start this year, although it blames other factors like competition from the World Cup in France.

Saddam to deliver speech on end of Iraq-Iran war

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will deliver a televised speech on Saturday marking the anniversary of the end of the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran war, Iraqi newspapers reported on Friday. "The president leader Saddam Hussein, may God glorify him, will address a historic and comprehensive speech on Saturday at 11.00 a.m. on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Victory Day August 8," the papers said. They said President Hussein's speech would be carried live by "Iraqi television networks and the Iraqi News Agency, INA," it added.

Archaeologists find possible Christ carving, big church mosaic

DAMASCUS (AP) — Archaeologists have unearthed a rock carved with what may be the figure of Jesus Christ and a large Byzantine mosaic in eastern Syria, the official Syrian news agency said Thursday. The mosaic is believed to have been the floor of a church in Tartus, a town on Syria's Mediterranean coast 160 miles northwest of Damascus. Measuring 28 metres by 24 metres, the mosaic is considered "the biggest that has ever been discovered in the coastal region," Rashid Issa, the head of Tartus' Department of Antiquities, told SANA. He said the mosaic displayed "geometric shapes and decorations." Archaeologists believe a figure carved on rock they have excavated is that of Christ, but it may be that of a saint. In Byzantine times, Tartus was famous for its devotion to the Virgin Mary. There is still a Christian community in the Tartus district and a place called the Valley of the Christians.



A Palestinian youth raises his national flag at the entrance to a refugee camp Friday in Jelazon, north of the West Bank city of Ramallah. Hundreds of Palestinians demonstrated in Ramallah against the closure of local roads by the Israeli army (AFP photo)

Netanyahu holds emergency unemployment summit

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu brought together a high-powered group of economic officials, business and labour leaders Friday to hammer out ways to reverse the sharp economic slowdown in Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu announced the emergency council of the "economic-social council" on Monday amid growing protests among businessmen, labour and even members of his own coalition over the rapid rise in unemployment over the past year.

"We are here to revive the economy," Mr. Netanyahu told the council in an opening statement. He said a key element of the growth programme would involve increasing spending on public works in the 1999 budget, but insisted the battle against unemployment "cannot lead to a rise in inflation" or worsen the budget deficit.

Mr. Netanyahu, who came to power in June 1996 promising economic growth and liberalisation of Israel's huge state sector, asked participants to bring specific proposals for creating jobs to Friday's council.

The council includes the ministers of finance, labour and industry, the governor of the central bank, the head of the main employers' association and the secretary general of Israel's main trade union federation.

As part of Mr. Netanyahu's new drive to revive the economy, the central bank on Thursday announced a surprise 1.5 percentage point cut in its key lending rate, the biggest drop in more than two years.

Unemployment has risen from less than seven per cent of the working population when Mr. Netanyahu came to power to 9.3 per cent in June — its highest level in five years.

At the same time economic growth has plummeted from six per cent in 1996 to two per cent last year and a projected one per cent in 1998 — the Israeli economy's worst performance in 32 years.

Critics blame the slowdown primarily on a combination of the government's previous tight monetary policy designed to slow inflation and the consequences of the breakdown in the Middle East peace process under Mr. Netanyahu.

As new reports surfaced in recent days forecasting a further slowdown in the economy in coming months, there were growing calls from elements in the fragile coalition government for Mr. Netanyahu to call early general elections before the situation worsens.

The slowdown effects above all the Sephardic community of Jews of Middle Eastern and North African origin who provide

the core constituency for Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party and other groups in his coalition.

An opinion poll released on Thursday showed that unemployment and the economic slowdown were the top concerns of voters.

Mr. Netanyahu has so far publicly rejected calls for early elections, but press reports say his inner circle is already preparing to move up the polls from their scheduled date in 2000.

Israeli newspapers reported Friday that Mr. Netanyahu forced Thursday's big interest rate cut on the central bank governor, Yacovov Frenkel, who had warned just days earlier that a sudden drop in lending rates could spark a return to rampant inflation.

The cut brought the base interest rate down to 9.5 per cent, its lowest level in eight years, and was hailed by businessmen who had been calling for an easing of the government's monetary policy for months.

The Maariv newspaper quoted high government officials as saying Mr. Netanyahu had decided to take personal control over economic policy in view of possible early elections.

He faces an uphill battle, however, as key ministers have already signalled their opposition to his 1999 budget plan, submitted to the cabinet on Thursday.

Iran's new interior minister vows to protect freedoms

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's new Interior Minister Abdol-Vahed Musavi-Lari has vowed to defend freedom of expression in the Islamic republic and called for the creation of political parties.

"In the present atmosphere, various groups can express their views within the framework of the constitution. It is for people to decide which views they want to choose," Mr. Musavi-Lari told a group of young activists in Ardebil, northeastern Iran, on Thursday.

"We are determined to protect and safeguard the present atmosphere where various tendencies have the opportu-

nity to discuss their views," he said, the official IRNA news agency reported Friday. Mr. Musavi-Lari, a close ally of President Mohammad Khatami, was appointed last month after the conservative-led parliament ousted his predecessor Abdullah Nouri, a bold reformer disliked by Islamic hardliners.

Last week, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed Mr. Musavi-Lari as his deputy in charge of the police force, a privilege which will allow the minister to enforce his mandates.

"We have to have an exercise to have various tenden-

cies and views in the society, and by tolerating each other and respecting the law replace hostility with dialogue," the minister said.

"Eliminating [opposing] views is not healthy, while versatile views will help the society grow and progress," he added.

Mr. Musavi-Lari said creation of political parties "is a fundamental task for the country" and called for "serious action" toward that goal. "The ministry will use all its power to remove obstacles to the expression of [opposing] views so that those with new thoughts can have a chance to offer them," he vowed.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Cartoon — Family Dog
15:30 ...Clowning Around
16:00 ...Drama — Neighbours
16:30 ...Doc. — Scandi Nature
17:00 French Programme — "Fait Pas Revir"
18:00 ...Acapulco Bay
19:00 ...Le Journal
19:15 French Programme — "L'été de Colomb"
19:30 ...News headlines
19:35 Quiz Show — You Bet Your Life
19:55 ...Cinema, Cinema
20:30 ...Prism
21:10 ...Drama — Sirens
22:00 ...News in English
22:30 Feature film — "Stalked"
22:59 ...Country Music
00:30 ...End of T.N.

PRAYER TIMES

04:24 ...Fajr
05:50 ...Sunrise
12:41 ...Dhuhr
16:22 ...Asr
19:32 ...Maghreb
20:59 ...Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.
4624590

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366
Anglican Church Tel. 4624833/4624811
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Arman International Church Tel. 865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646135
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

ment of Meteorology
It will be hot with temperatures above average by 5-7 degrees centigrade and winds north-westerly to northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba it will be hot, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max temp.
Amman ...26/37
Aqaba ...30/43
Deserts ...25/40
Jordan Valley ...29/43

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 36 Aqaba 42. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent
Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun ...30
Jerash ...36
Um Qays ...35
Madaba ...35
Petra ...37
Dead Sea ...43

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour ...4750197
Dr. Ali Shukri ...4898863
Dr. Khalil Ramadan ...4774397

Dr. Nidal Dahleh ...5927195
Firas pharmacy ...5661912
Al Asema pharmacy ...4637055
Nairookh pharmacy ...4623672
Al Salam pharmacy ...4636730
Yacoub pharmacy ...4649455
Shmeisani pharmacy ...4637660
Najib pharmacy ...53477632
IRBID:
Dr. Isam Saleh ...240858
Amman:
Al Ouds pharmacy ...(-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ratib Atallah ...984424
Khalifeh pharmacy ...985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre ...4637111
Civil Defence Department ...5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ...4630341
Civil Defence Emergency ...199
Rescue Police 192 ...4621111
Fire Brigade ...4617101
Blood Bank ...4775121
Highway Police ...5343402
Traffic Police ...4896300
Public Security Dept ...4630321
Hotel Complaints ...5605800
Price Complaints ...5661176
Water & Sewage Complaints ...4874667
Arman Municipality Complaints ...787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ...121
Overseas Calls ...010230
Central Amman Telephone

Repairs ...4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs ...5661101
Jordan Television ...4773111
Radio Jordan ...4774111
Water Authority ...5681000
J. Electricity Authority ...815615
Electric Power Co. ...4636381
RJ Flight Information ...44-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport ...44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdul ...5666131/7
Husseini Medical Centre Tel. 8658856
Luzmila ...4630195
Khalidi Maternity ...46428116
Akileh Maternity ...4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 46-42362
Malhas, J. Amman ...4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani ...5610701
Shmeisani Hospital ...5669131
University Hospital ...5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdul ...5641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ...4777101/3
Al-Bashir ...4775111/25
Army, Marka ...89161116
Queen Alia Hospital 560224050
Amal Hospital ...5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ...109683323

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45 ...Beirut (RJ)
09:40 ...Istanbul (RJ)
11:45 ...Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00 ...Amsterdam, Chicago, Detroit (RJ)
12:30 ...Milan, Rome (RJ)
12:40 ...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:10 ...Paris (RJ)
13:15 ...Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
14:05 ...Carlo (RJ)
14:05 ...London (RJ)
21:05 ...Riyadh (RJ)
21:20 ...Bombay (RJ)
21:25 ...Jeddah (RJ)
22:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
00:10 ...Dhahran (add) (RJ)
06:00 ...Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights
07:35 ...Damascus, London (BA)
14:30 ...Riyadh (SV)
15:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
15:50 ...Vienna (OS)
16:25 ...Dubai, Muscat (EK)
19:00 ...Paris (AF)
19:05 ...Frankfurt (LH)
22:30 ...Beirut (ME)
23:35 ...Cairo (MS)
23:40 ...Amsterdam (KL)
01:05 ...London, Damascus (BA)
02:05 ...Belgrade (JU)
03:00 ...Rome (AZ)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:10 ...Tehran (RJ)
08:30 ...Damascus (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (44) 52700 or (44) 523250.

Royal Wings (RW)
10:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) and proceeding to Marka Airport (RW)
18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport)
23:25 Aqaba (Marka Airport) (RW)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
09:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport)
21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Home Na

Water

Oppositio

Abdullah Khatib

Abdullah Khatib is an influential opposition leader, urging the government to resign for the defence of the constitution. He has been a member of the parliament and a member of the cabinet. He is a member of the opposition and a member of the cabinet. He is a member of the opposition and a member of the cabinet.

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Water crisis enters into fifth week

Opposition parties threaten legal action

Government takes control of wells

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An influential coalition of opposition parties, including the powerful Islamic Action Front, on Friday urged the government to resign for the debate of the month-old water pollution crisis that has caused nationwide panic.

It also claimed that Israel was responsible for the water pollution and called for the abrogation of the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

"The government is responsible for any effects and diseases that harmed or might harm the nation as a result of the water crisis," said the coalition's statement.

"The coalition urges the nation to force the government to resign, sue its officials for their responsibility in the crisis and protect junior officers from being abused as scapegoats."

Under the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed in 1994, Jordan began channelling 60 million cubic metres per year (mcm/yr) from Lake

Tiberias to the Kingdom in 1997.

"The polluted water coming from Lake Tiberias is a result of the peace treaty. Therefore, the coalition urges all local powers to unify their efforts to abrogate the treaty," the statement added.

In early July, West Amman residents began complaining of discoloured and foul-smelling water coming into their homes. Recent reports on the water identified a high concentration of algae and faecal coliforms (body waste) in the waters of the Yarmouk River, Lake Tiberias and Mukhaibeh as the cause.

Abdullatif Arabiat, head of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), said the party is studying the possibility of suing the government for its responsibility in the water crisis, "which is a threat to Jordan's water security."

"The Constitution and the civil law are the IAF's references, and according to them, the party has the right to hold people responsible for such violations accountable," Dr. Arabiat told the

Jordan Times.

Several organisations are studying the possibility of suing the government over the water problem, and columnists in local dailies have been urging citizens to initiate legal action and to investigate possible official negligence.

"The crisis happened while Jordan is still in the first stages of peace with Israel. What can happen later?" Dr. Arabiat added.

"If the Israeli statements that Lake Tiberias's water is used for agriculture are true, then why hasn't the government acted according to these announcements?"

Roey Gilad, spokesman for the Israeli embassy in Amman, has rejected claims that Israel was supplying Jordan with polluted water from Lake Tiberias.

"Israel is supplying Jordan with drinking water from the same source it uses to supply Israeli citizens," Mr. Gilad told the Jordan Times.

"Whatever happens to water once it crosses the border is an internal Jordan-

ian matter."

Last Wednesday, the Lower House's Agriculture and Water Committee (AWC), officially requested the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to submit its laboratory tests on the percentage of halogen elements (any of the chemical elements chlorine, fluorine, bromine and astatine which form salts by simple union with a metal) in the water.

Former Secretary General of the Water Authority Raja Gedeon, a water expert, explained that chlorine, when reacting with water containing high concentrations of algae and organic substances produces toxic waste that may cause cancer in the long run during life span.

Deputy Salameh Hiari, head of the AWC, challenged the formation of the governmental investigation committee, which works under the Ministry of Justice.

"This is intended to coverup and conceal the water scandal," he said.

"If the government wants to solve the crisis, it should

leave the issue to the Higher Judicial Council which is, I believe, the authorised party to investigate the problem," Mr. Hiari told the Jordan Times.

The investigation committee was not available for comment yesterday.

The committee today will meet with Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin to discuss the situation. Committee sources expect to present the findings of their own study to the government and to receive the water ministry's own study, which they have been demanding.

Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani stressed that the water problem is a result of negligence and lack of maintenance methods.

"Jordan paid millions of dinars in the 70's and 80's to build a good infrastructure, but we did not maintain it well," Dr. Anani said in lecture at the World Affairs Council on Wednesday.

"The solution lays in focusing on the quality not the quantity," he stated.

By Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A handful of private water suppliers have closed their doors in protest of a recent government decision to crack down on their soaring profits after a recent water pollution scare.

"Well owners have closed down because the government distributed its employees in Amman private run water wells," said a truck driver who requested anonymity.

A government official denied that some wells had closed and told the Jordan Times that all wells are being monitored by employees from the ministries of water, interior, and Supply, as well as the Department of Public Security, around the clock.

"Well owners were forced to sign documents last week committing themselves to keeping their wells opened, according to the government's fixed prices," said an official from the government committee in charge of monitoring water distribution in Amman.

The government installed official employees at private wells after recent complaints

that well owners and truck drivers exploited the recent water scare, forcing price of one cubic metre of water up as demand for clean and safe water skyrocketed. The government put its own water tankers into service to sell water at the fixed price of JD1.250 per metre, while private sector transporters were demanding as much as JD7-8 per metre. The government opened some offices in the western sector of the capital to receive peoples complaints and requests for water delivery.

The truck driver and others confirmed yesterday that they went to three different wells to collect water for distribution in the capital, but all were closed.

One well owner said he had closed the well after it ran dry, while another owner said his well was closed, but declined to elaborate on the reason for its closure.

A local columnist urged the government to declare areas supplied by Zai Water Treatment Plant "disaster zones" and confiscate all trucks to organise the sale and distribution of water to Amman residents.

He also called on the government to crack down on people manipulating the price of the source of life.

Despite government assurances that the water running in domestic taps is not contaminated with any health-threatening microbes, people are still flocking to buy spring water to fill their tanks and have virtually wiped out groceries' stocks of mineral water.

"I prefer buying spring water at five times the fixed price, than drinking tap water that would jeopardise my family's life," said Ahmad Ali, a resident of Sweifheh.

After a spate of conflicting statements, the government said it detected the cause of the problem and blamed "human and operational error" at the Zai Plant, the main source of domestic water supplies to Amman. The government said it would punish found those responsible. An independent investigation commission was formed last week by the Cabinet to determine the source of polluted water and the parties responsible for the debacle.

Jordan hosts youth exchange programme

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan hosted the first Middle East Youth Exchange Programme under the framework of the Youth for Europe Programme of the European Commission during July 24 to August 6.

This two-week event went by the title of "Future in Peace" and included 45 young people from Jordan, Palestine, Israel, the Netherlands and Germany.

"This is a new and unique project as it is being implemented for the first time in the Middle East," said Fernando Garces de Los Fayos, first secretary at the Delegation of the European Commission in Jordan.

He told the Jordan Times that the project's components were linked to the peace process.

Project coordinator Erik Ackerman said, "this exchange deals with many aspects of both the countries concerned and the young people participating in it. Peace, tolerance and justice are the focal points of this programme."

"This programme aspires to foster a deeper understanding among youth in the Middle East and between them and the youth of Europe," Mr. Garces said.

Discussions evolved around problems faced by youth, and the environment where visits were made to Aqaba, Wadi Rum, Petra, and northern parts of the Kingdom. Human rights and democracy were deliberated to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Themes were developed in

workshops including an activity on justice. Participants spoke of what they believed to be just or unjust.

Under the subject of religion, participants traveled to the Old City of Jerusalem and met with people representing different religions.

Mr. Ackerman added that if true understanding and real friendship were to be attained, then "[people] have to share as many experiences as possible, discussions, trips, making music, and theatre."

Mr. Garces concluded that the programme had been satisfactory and "hopefully the links that have been solidly created among these young people will be maintained and this experience will help them overcome prejudices they may have had."

Ag ministry to create fund for farmers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha told a meeting of the National Committee of the Jordan Farmers Federation that his ministry is intensifying efforts to create a fund to support Jordanian farmers.

The fund is necessary to provide financial assistance to farmers in times of drought or natural disasters affecting their livelihoods.

The government has allocated JD50,000 in aid to the federation to cover part of their activities and is awaiting government and Parliament endorsement of an amendment to the federation law, expected to introduce a system on farmers subscriptions to the

federation and organise the federation's functions, said the minister.

Mr. Khreisha underlined the importance of the federation's role saying that it must participate in the agricultural production decision making process.

Last June, Mr. Khreisha told the first National Agricultural Conference in Amman that agriculture accounts for 20 per cent of Jordan's total exports and 15 per cent of Jordanian labour.

But, he said, that the size of land suitable for farming totals four million dunums, or one dunum per person, largely due to insufficient water for irrigation.

However, he said, Jordan

has been able to produce surplus fruits and vegetables and has achieved self sufficiency in table eggs, but falls far short in animal fodder, seeds and red meat production.

At the meeting with the committee, held Thursday, Mr. Khreisha said that the ministry decided to exempt farmers indebted to the federation from paying interest on their loans, provided that they pay all their dues by Sept 31, 1998.

The committee, which comprises seven members including the Agricultural Marketing Organisation President Salem Lawzi, elected federation heads and members in the various Jordanian governorates.

News Briefs

Anani heads to Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Jawad Anani stressed Friday Jordan's keenness to enhance bilateral relations with Iran. In an interview with the Jordan News Agency (Petra), Dr. Anani said his visit to Iran today is in response to an invitation from the Iranian government. Dr. Anani said that Jordanian-Iranian ties have improved further since the visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince, Hassan to Tehran during the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in December where he met Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and senior officials. The minister said that Arabs should exercise cooperation and coordination with Iran to achieve common interests. Dr. Anani said that Iran can play a very important regional and international role since it now presides the OIC. He added that Iranian-Iraqi ties are improving.

Jordan marks Accession Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries and public departments will be closed on Tuesday, August 11, 1998, to mark the Accession to the Throne of His Majesty King Hussein, said a statement issued Friday by acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour.

World breast-feeding week celebrated

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ceremony was held at the Marjion Hotel on Thursday to mark World Breast Feeding Week for 1998 under the theme "Breast Feeding — the Best Investment." The ceremony was a joint effort by the Ministry of Health and Health Care, UNICEF, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. These partners are working to maximise the contribution that breast-feeding makes to the health and well-being of Jordanian mothers and children. Minister of Health Ashraf Al Kurdi represented HM Queen Noor at the ceremony, also attended by UNICEF Country Office Representative Misrak Elias, and Salwa Bitar, acting director of the Population and Family Health Office of USAID. The theme not only emphasises the exclusive and prolonged breast-feeding lowers infant mortality rates, but also that breast milk substitutes save medical expenses through a lower incidence of preventable acute and chronic illnesses. The joint efforts of the health community have reduced the infant mortality rates (IMR) in Jordan by 20 per cent since 1985. These efforts include promoting exclusive and prolonged breast-feeding, which made a major contribution to reducing IMR.

Japan offers grant to build water reservoirs

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Japan has offered a \$70,271 grant to the Islamic Relief Agency (ISRA) to help build water reservoirs for needy communities in Jordan's southern towns of Tafleeh, Ma'an, Aqaba and other areas.

Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Koichi Matsumoto and ISRA Regional Director Khaled Sudani signed the deal on Thursday, the embassy said in a statement.

"The project also aims to save water and money," Mr. Sudani told the Jordan Times on Friday. "ISRA's future plans include

expanding this project to cover Jordan's central areas."

Japan's assistance is extended under the framework of Grant Aid for Grassroots Projects (GAGP) and marks the first such scheme in allocations made by the 1998 Japanese fiscal year.

Japan has donated \$2.8 million to the Jordanian government and to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) under the GAGP since 1993.

"GAGP mainly aims to support the activities of government organisations and NGOs," said the embassy's press release.

According to Mr. Sudani, the agency, member in a 27

international humanitarian committees, has in the past six months built 31 reservoirs in Irbid, 24 in Ajloun and 8 in Ma'arra, all in north and northeastern Jordan.

Japan donated some money to ISRA to spend on an established thyme plantation project in Irbid that has helped generate some income to needy Palestinian refugees, said the press release.

ISRA, an international non-profit organisation, began operations in Jordan in 1990 to help rehabilitate needy families.

Over a third of Jordan's 4.2 million population lives below the poverty line, according to official figures.

Children's rights conference to be held in Amman

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The head of the British Council in Jordan has stressed the need for proper diagnosis in cases of abused children and domestic violence in the Kingdom on grounds it was essential for victims and their families.

David Burton, speaking after visiting the National Institute of Forensic Medicine on Thursday, added that lack of such proper analysis would lead to many negative social problems.

"For example, there were several abused children in England who were taken away from their families, but the diagnoses a year later proved that (the children had not been abused)," he said after donating books on child protection and medicine.

He said the British government recently approved funds to hold a regional conference in Jordan on children's rights and social protection. The parity, grouping Middle East and North African countries, will be held later this year or in early 1999.

"Jordan was chosen because it is ahead of all countries in the region in debating these issues, something that is not happening in other countries," Dr. Burton said.

"We want to bring experts from these countries to discuss the issue and exchange experience," he added.

He said crimes of honour, common in Jordan and elsewhere in the region, was openly being debated in the Kingdom.

"Honour crime is a terrible issue, and Jordan, unlike other countries in the region, is the only country that recognises it as an issue and discusses it,"



David Burton and Mo'men Hadidi at the National Institute of Forensic Medicine (photo courtesy of NIF)

Dr. Burton said.

Between 20 to 30 women are killed in Jordan annually in the name of honour — constituting the highest number of murders in this socially and religiously conservative country.

Twelve women reportedly were killed in Jordan this year. Relatives defend their actions on grounds the victims had tarnished their families' honour by allegedly engaging in illicit affairs with men.

Dr. Burton said Jordan and Britain enjoyed strong cooperation in areas of human rights and the right of children.

Recently, the National Institute for Forensic Medicine linked up with a British university in Liverpool to exchange studies, experience and research in the field of domestic violence.

The link was the outcome of a workshop held in Amman last year to launch a project for the prevention of child abuse.

The workshop was organised by the British Council in cooperation with the British Embassy and the Jordan

River for Development Projects.

Mo'men Hadidi, head of the institute, briefed Dr. Burton on the organisation's functions and services, including the determination of whether death cases handed to the institute had been natural or had been the result of a crime.

"We try to protect society by investigating social crimes like honour killings and violence against children," Dr. Hadidi explained.

He said domestic violence against women and children in the Kingdom was on the rise.

Experts and sociologists have blamed rapid socio-economic and political changes and increasing poverty and unemployment for the increase of violence against women and children.

A recent police study revealed that between 1993 and 1996 there were 2,500 reported cases of crimes, including murder, attempted murder, abduction, felonious assault, molestation, rape and manslaughter that were committed against minors in the Kingdom.



Abdel Majid Abdullah performs at the Jerash South Theatre. The Saudi singer is one of the headline act at this year's festival, so far drawing some of the largest crowds. Abdullah will woo audiences at one last performance this evening at 8:30 p.m. (photo by Yousef Allan)

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

• Concert by Abdul Majeed Abdullah of Saudi Arabia at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• Photo exhibition on old buildings of Salt entitled "Engravings on the Wings of Time" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 13.

• "Exhibition of Arab Sculptors" at the garden of the Weibdeh Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh, until Aug. 8.

• "The Small Sculptors Exhibition" at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5537598), until Aug. 8

NEWS IN BRIEF

French ex-minister indicted for money laundering

PARIS (AFP) — Former French Defence Minister François Leotard was indicted Friday for money-laundering and illegal financing of a political party. Mr. Leotard and his close aide, centre-right deputy Renaud Donnedieu de Vabre, were placed under judicial examination by anti-corruption magistrate Laurence Vichnievsky. Approached by three journalists outside her office, Mr. Leotard threatened to punch one of them in the face and repeatedly told them to "go and get stuffed," but was restrained by his lawyer, Jean Veil. Mr. Leotard and Donnedieu de Vabre are suspected of moving five million francs (about \$830,000) between Luxembourg and Italy for the benefit of Mr. Leotard's political party, the now-defunct Republican Party, media reports said. The money was allegedly taken from the special funds of the conservative government of prime minister Edouard Balladur, who was in office between 1993 and 1995. Le Monde said, citing judicial sources. Mr. Leotard this year lost control of the Republican Party, now renamed Liberal Democracy, to his rival, former Finance Minister Alain Madelin, and has also been ousted as leader of the centre-right coalition in parliament, the Union for French Democracy (UDF). Mr. Leotard backed Mr. Balladur in his aborted bid for the presidency in 1995 against President Jacques Chirac. In 1994, he was cleared of corruption over a property acquisition in Frejus, on the French Riviera, where he is mayor.

Anglican bishops slap U.S. church over women priests

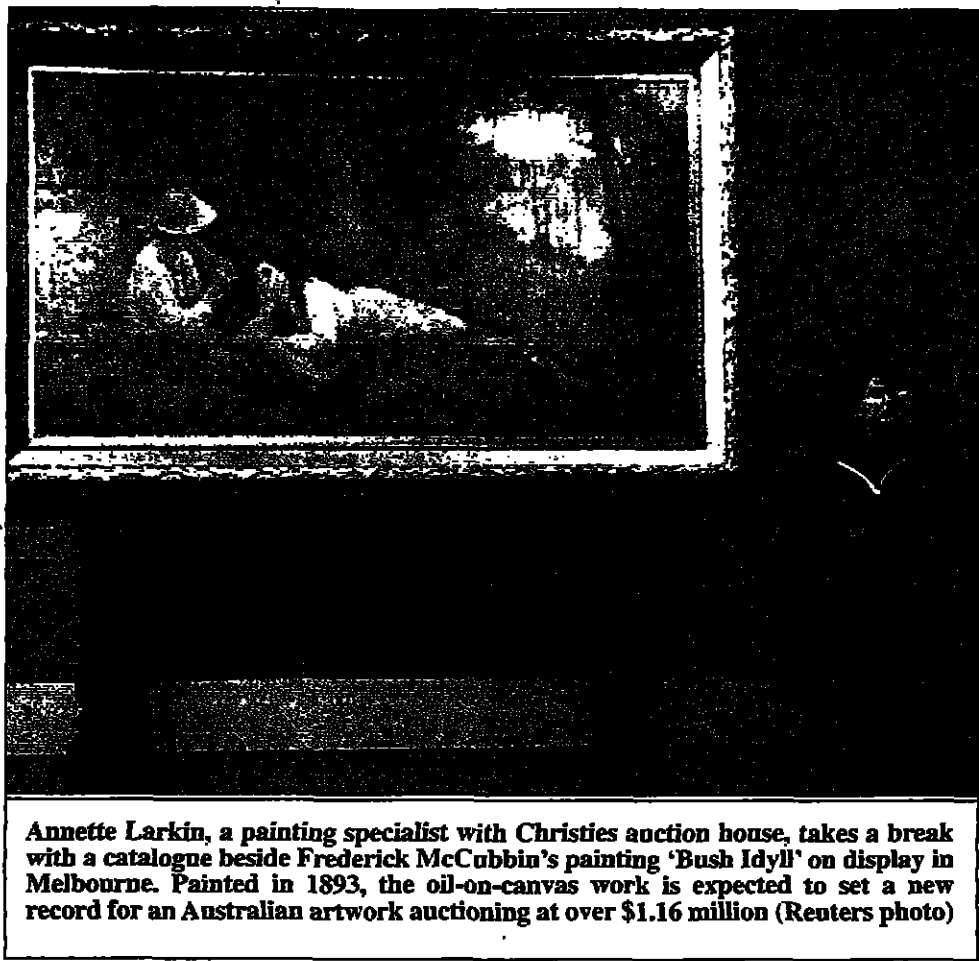
CANTERBURY, England (AP) — A resolution intended to reduce discord among Anglican churches over the ordination of women has drawn protests from female bishops in the United States. The resolution, proposed by the Right Rev. Penny Jamieson, bishop of Dunedin, New Zealand, implicitly rebukes the U.S. Episcopal Church for cracking down on four bishops who have refused to permit women priests in their dioceses. Bishops meeting at the Lambeth Conference Thursday endorsed the resolution, which says there should be "no compulsion on any bishop in matters concerning ordination and licensing." It disagrees with changes in canon law adopted last year by the Episcopal Church, giving the recalcitrant bishops until the year 2000 to comply. As a consultative body of the 70 million worldwide Anglican community, the Lambeth Conference has no authority to override the decision of any national church. Although the resolution expresses disapproval it doesn't legally affect the position of the U.S. bishops. The Right Rev. Catherine Roskam of New York said Friday that the resolution meant nothing in terms of the American church's policy. "There's a kind of arrogance among bishops here that forgets there's the rest of the church. And I doubt the House of Bishops in the American Church is going to take that one sitting down."

Dengue fever epidemic in Cambodia escalates

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Dengue fever cases in Cambodia surged in the past month and have caused the deaths of at least 144 children so far this year, health officials said Friday. "It is a national epidemic, we have a very serious situation here," said Dr. Stefan Hoyer, dengue and malaria officer for the U.N.'s World Health Organisation. The mosquito-borne disease's symptoms of fever and muscle pain are usually temporary for adults but sometimes fatal for small children. Because damp weather creates favorable breeding conditions for mosquitoes, dengue cases regularly peak during the rainy season, which officially starts in Cambodia in July. The situation may be exacerbated this year by the El Niño weather phenomenon, whose late rains and warm weather caused an unusual dry season outbreak in early January. The last dengue epidemic in Cambodia was in 1995, when there were over 10,000 Dengue cases and 450 deaths. The spread of Dengue from urban to rural areas has exacerbated the situation in Cambodia, "because of the remoteness of many places and the difficult access to health facilities in areas where Dengue is erupting newly," said Dr. Hoyer. He said that as a result, the fatality rate in Cambodia is higher than in most other countries. Dr. Hoyer praised the quick reaction of the international community, which has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in aid for insecticide spraying, health education and epidemic control.

Greek dictionary definition of Filipinas causes anger

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Greek dictionary that defines Filipino women as housemaids or people with unimportant duties has provoked widespread anger — and a bout of soul-searching — in the Philippines. "It's a sad commentary on the status of our women," Dominique Coseteng, one of four women in the 23-member Philippine Senate, said Friday. Filipinos have been stung by the definition of "Filipineza" in a modern Greek dictionary as a "domestic worker or a person who performs non-essential auxiliary tasks." The government sent a diplomatic note asking Greek authorities to encourage the author, Greek scholar George Babiniotis, to delete the entry. More than 6 million Filipinos work overseas, many as maids or entertainers, because of a shortage of job opportunities at home. The money they send home is the country's biggest source of foreign exchange. Many endure daily indignities ranging from verbal abuse to sexual advances from their employers. But Filipinos at home generally see them as privileged for being able to work overseas for higher wages. Manila's archbishop, Jaime Cardinal Sin, even called overseas Filipinos "heroes" for supporting their families and nation. The linguistic flap has caught the attention of President Joseph Estrada, who called the definition "totally unacceptable" and "severely inaccurate." "As much as it is offensive, its negative connotation downgrades the positive contribution of Filipino women to the economic and social development of the Philippines and of Greece," Mr. Estrada said. Others saw some truth in the definition. "What we should really do is embark on a long-term and sustainable programme so that our women need not go abroad as domestic helpers," Sen. Coseteng said. To accomplish that, the Philippines should provide better economic conditions at home and equal treatment of women, she said. In 1997, overseas Filipino workers sent home \$5.7 billion through official channels and much more through other means, helping soften the effects on the Philippines of the Asian currency crisis.



Annette Larkin, a painting specialist with Christies auction house, takes a break with a catalogue beside Frederick McCubbin's painting 'Bush Idyll' on display in Melbourne. Painted in 1893, the oil-on-canvas work is expected to set a new record for an Australian artwork auctioning at over \$1.16 million (Reuters photo)

Myanmar opposition groups call for uprising against junta

BANGKOK (AFP) — Myanmar opposition groups Friday called for a nationwide campaign to force the junta from power, on the eve of the 10th anniversary of a bloody military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters. The National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, won 1990 polls by a landslide but the junta has refused to relinquish power. The opposition's government in exile, mainly comprising members of parliament elected in the 1990 polls, separately urged the Myanmar people to maintain the "spirit" of those gunned down in the 1988 pro-democracy demonstrations, known as the 4-8 incident because of the date on which it occurred. "On the 10th anniversary of the historic movement for democracy, we would like to earnestly urge the entire people to participate ... in the effort to have the parliament convened by Aug. 21, by holding fast to the spirit of the 4-8 movement," the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma said in a statement. "Now, the political situation in Burma has reached a critical point," it said. A senior opposition figure based in Bangkok said the dissidents had run out of patience with the junta and were committed to forcing urgent change. "The opposition is not going to back off," said Aung Naing Oo, foreign affairs secretary of the All Burma Students Democratic Front. "The military is not going to back off. I don't think that is the best for all of us." "But if the Burmese military refuses to enter dialogue or find a peaceful solution, the only choice for us is to use people power," he added, expressing concern new violence might erupt. Dissidents in Bangkok said opposition leaders were Friday meeting in a rebel-held zone on the border with Thailand to map out their campaign to dislodge the junta. The meeting was attended by the heads of almost all Myanmar opposition groups operating outside the country, as well as commanders of rebel factions within its borders, they added. "This is preparation for our movement inside Burma," NCUB presidium member Tin Maung Win said, adding the meeting was taking place just across from the Thai border town of Mae Sot in a district held by the rebel Karen National Union. "This is not a violent campaign," while declining to give details of their deliberations. Foreign diplomats in Yangon expressed skepticism the opposition would be able to orchestrate a nationwide campaign against the junta. "If you are asking whether they (the opposition) can get the whole country out on the streets, then the answer is definitely no," a senior diplomat at a Western embassy said. "They have relatively small numbers and, apart from those who aren't even in Burma, most are in the major cities. But they could stir people up about other things and that could cause trouble." Another Western diplomat agreed with the junta line that most Myanmar people were more interested in survival than democracy. "But remember the economic situation is pretty bad right now, and a lot of people are upset about that."

British ex-spy pulled off plane heading for Australia

AUCKLAND (AFP) — Ex-British spy Richard Tomlinson who is threatening to publish a book on British intelligence was Friday pulled off a plane by authorities just before he was due to leave for Australia. He told Television New Zealand that although he was a New Zealand passport holder, and would normally have free entry to Australia, Canberra had deemed he needed a visa because he has served time in a British jail. He also confirmed he has spoken Friday with a book publishing company, Reeds, which is a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Mr. Tomlinson, 35, arrived here Wednesday from Paris and was served with a High Court injunction ordering him not to talk publicly of his past work with MI6, the British government's external secret service. He was arrested along with MI5 agent David Shayler, in Paris last Friday by the DST, France's counter-espionage service. Both were picked up at the request of the British government for offences against the Official Secrets Act but Mr. Tomlinson was released on the grounds of insufficient evidence. Mr. Tomlinson worked for MI6 for five years before being literally locked out when he arrived for work one day. An attempt to have his grievances heard by an industrial tribunal was thwarted by Britain's secrecy laws. He was last year sentenced to a year's jail in Britain for passing secret information to an Australian publisher. He was released earlier this year, on probation, after serving six months.

'Serb forces not conducting ethnic cleansing in Kosovo'

GENEVA (AFP) — The U.N. refugee agency Friday rejected the notion that Serb forces were conducting pure "ethnic cleansing" of the ethnic Albanian population in the war-torn Serbian province of Kosovo. "We don't think there is any official policy by the Serbian government of ethnic cleansing because it would be totally and utterly crazy," a spokesman of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Kris Janowski told journalists. "It would make no sense in a situation where there's an area which is 90 percent populated by Albanians," he said in response to a question on the issue. However, Mr. Janowski said that there was an "element" of ethnic cleansing in the six-month combat, pointing to the burning of houses, the depopulation of certain areas, and the targeting of civilians. The situation in Kosovo was "slightly different" from the scenario in the early 1990s in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where villages of different ethnic minorities — Serbs, Croats and Muslims — were packed close together. "What we saw in Bosnia was a very quick, very brutal drive by the Bosnian Serb forces, rounding up thousands of people, driving them out and locking them in concentration camps. We have not seen this happen in Kosovo. And we hope it won't happen," he said. But Mr. Janowski warned that the humanitarian situation in Kosovo was becoming "worse by the day," with more than 200,000 people — about one tenth of the population — uprooted by the fighting between Serb forces and ethnic Albanian separatists. "It's on the verge of being a humanitarian disaster," Houses were still burning in the area around Malisevo Thursday, according to UNHCR five-truck convoy that delivered relief supplies to people scattered in the hills around the town. UNHCR is planning another convoy Saturday to Malisevo, the only place that the agency has currently has access to, Mr. Janowski said. Houses in the area had been crammed with as many as 100 to 120 people. "Most of the people have been living in the open for more than a week with little food. There's little water and no sanitation facilities," Mr. Janowski said. Cases of dehydration among children have been reported. The UNHCR estimates there are more than 150,000 displaced people within Kosovo, around 30,000 in the province of Montenegro and more than 13,000 in Albania. Mr. Janowski said the UNHCR was planning for "winterisation" in the event the fighting drags on, which meant accumulating food stocks and winter clothing.

U.S., Russian envoys in Kosovo as NATO action looms

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — U.S. and Russian envoys compared notes in Kosovo Friday, a day after Yugoslav gunners hammered two villages west of Pristina bringing the threat of NATO intervention loomed larger. Christopher Hill, the U.S. ambassador to Macedonia and Washington's point man for Kosovo, and Russian deputy foreign minister Nikolai Afanasyevsky met in a Pristina hotel, before going into talks with Ibrahim Rugova, political leader of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority. Mr. Afanasyevsky was later to see local Serbian authorities, while Mr. Hill was to tour Orahovac and Malisevo, two towns southwest of Pristina that have witnessed bitter fighting in recent weeks, diplomatic sources said. In Brussels, NATO ambassadors Friday studied a list of options for military intervention aimed at forcing Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to halt his crackdown on ethnic Albanian rebels. "We've intensified the military planning within NATO and, in fact, within a day or two that should be brought to a conclusion," said White House spokesman P.J. Crowley. On the battlefield Thursday, Yugoslav security forces pounded Poljanec and Marina, two villages in the Drenica region to the west of Kosovo's capital, sending thousands fleeing. Gunners slammed shells into the villages at the rate of two per minutes, then paused for 20 minutes before resuming their fire at the same deadly rhythm. Non-stop artillery fire has battered Drenica all week, as security forces pursue what ethnic Albanian sources call a "scorched earth" policy to wipe out strongholds of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Kosovo's 90 percent ethnic Albanian majority craves independence from Yugoslavia, but the United States and its European allies prefer that it regain the autonomous status it enjoyed in the former Yugoslavia. But as five months of fighting drags on, the conflict has taken more than 500 lives, and forced 200,000 people — or one in 10 Kosovars — out of their homes, according to U.N. estimates. Mr. Milosevic asked the international community Thursday to condemn what he called "terrorist violence" in Kosovo, and asked foreign governments to put an end to "the aid terrorists are receiving from abroad." But the United States indicated that NATO intervention was imminent if Mr. Milosevic did not relax the current offensive and sit down with the rebels. The U.S. State Department said Mr. Hill had given the Yugoslav leader a "very forceful message" that the offensive "only increased the chances that there be a military action on the part of NATO." Some 50 members of Kosovo's Serb minority meanwhile descended on Pristina to find out more of what happened to relatives abducted two weeks ago by KLA guerrillas in the Orahovac area. "We want Richard Holbrooke to come and tell us where our relatives are," said one man, referring to the U.S. diplomatic troubleshooter who is Washington's ambassador-designate to the United Nations.

Pentagon says Allied troops could move quickly into Balkans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of U.S. Marines will participate in NATO military exercises in Albania and Macedonia in the coming months in a show of force put on for Yugoslav leaders cracking down on ethnic Albanians in the province of Kosovo. "The current level of violence is unacceptable, and we're trying to make that clear in all sorts of communications to (Yugoslav President Slobodan) Milosevic and to his army and his police forces," Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon told reporters Thursday. Condemning the violence against ethnic Albanians in the Serbian province of Kosovo, Mr. Bacon said NATO allies want a ceasefire to end the fighting but continue to home plans for a potential military response in case intervention is necessary. Mr. Bacon said NATO was expected to put final touches on some plans for military action in the next two days. "Then the international community will have to decide what to do next, based on Mr. Milosevic's activities," he said. Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo are fighting for independence from the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, which together with the smaller Montenegro comprises what is left of Yugoslavia. Mr. Bacon announced that U.S. forces would participate in the two ground force exercises, held under NATO's Partnership for Peace programme. Asked if the exercises would "impress" the Yugoslav leader, Mr. Bacon replied: "The point isn't necessarily to impress him; it's to do the Partnership for Peace work in these two countries. But I don't think that he should doubt our ability to move forces in very quickly, should we decide it's necessary." In early June, 80 NATO warplanes flew over neighbouring Albania and Macedonia in a one-day mission also aimed at prodding the Yugoslav president to restrain his forces. Mr. Milosevic promised last month to halt military operations against Kosovo Liberation Army rebels but has nonetheless unleashed a new wave of Serb violence that has driven up to 200,000 ethnic Albanians from their homes. Mr. Bacon said the Albanian exercise for ground troops was scheduled following meetings earlier this summer among NATO foreign and defence ministers. Dubbed "Cooperative Assembly 1998," it runs from Aug. 17-22 and will bring together more than 1,200 troops from the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Greece, Spain, Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Turkey, Italy, Albania, Russia, and Lithuania. A U.S. Marine spokesman said more than 1,000 Marines could take part in the Albanian exercise. There are 2,183 marines in the Mediterranean region with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, on board the amphibious warfare ships USS Saipan, USS Ausin and USS Tortuga. Mr. Bacon said the Albanian operation will cover a broad range of activities, including training and medical exercises. Some engineering units will also work on repairing and rebuilding some local buildings. A second similar NATO exercise will be held in Macedonia Sept. 10-18. Troops from 22 nations will work on improving their "peacekeeping skills," Mr. Bacon said. About 200 U.S. Marines are scheduled to take part in that exercise. The Macedonian exercise will include participants from: the United States, Canada, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, France, Norway, Spain, Britain, Denmark, Albania, Latvia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Estonia, Macedonia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine. Finland and Lithuania will send observers, he added.

Aloha — we want our land back, say 100-year marchers

By Ed Rampell

HONOLULU, U.S. — Many Hawaiians will be protesting rather than celebrating this August — the centenary of the annexation of their homeland by the United States.

Indigenous demonstrators from the Aloha State (as it is known, after the Hawaiian word for love, which is often used as a greeting) will be staging an "Aloha March" in Washington in the run-up to the August 12 anniversary.

Organisers are hoping to attract thousands of marchers to back their claim for greater native rights in the archipelago that was once a small nation, seized by a superpower pursuing its strategic interests. A U.S.-backed coup toppled the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893, the territory was annexed in 1898 and became the 50th U.S. state in 1959.

Few outsiders know that behind the image of a tourists' paradise lies a native people who are a disadvantaged, landless minority. Hawaiian activists say they are the sole Native Americans without the tribal rights accorded 500 Indian nations and Alaskans, and that the time has come for action to right U.S. wrongs.

A "Hawaiian Renaissance" of cultural and political activism flourished in the 1970s, reviving hula, the indigenous tongue, and protesting against military

bases and occupation. It evolved into the Sovereignty Movement.

A minority of Hawaiians, such as the Nation of Hawaii group — slogan: "Not a state in '98" — favour independence. But others, such as Ka Lahui Hawaii (the Sovereign Hawaiian Nation), opt for the same rights as American Indians, with reservation land bases, tribal nation-within-a-nation status, and government-to-government relations with Washington.

Although a majority of Hawaiians appear to advocate "sovereignty," there are splits within the movement over what form sovereignty should take and how it should be attained.

Most agree, however, that sovereignty means self-determination, giving Hawaiians land, water, cultural, religious and political rights.

In 1993, the Sovereignty Movement rocked Hawaii with major demonstrations. About 16,000 natives and their supporters converged on the Iolani Palace, once the seat of Polynesian power, to protest against the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of independent Hawaii.

Afterwards, the state government — long an arch-foe of Hawaiian militancy — presented a plan for indigenous self-government which bitterly divided sovereignty. Some critics saw it as an attempt to create a pup-

pet regime, and it failed to arouse majority support.

Now, say activists, another anniversary presents Hawaiians with an opportunity to reunify the Sovereignty Movement, gain new momentum, stop fighting each other and start confronting state and federal powers again.

A 24-hour traditional prayer vigil, with oli (chants) and pahu (drums), will be held on August 7 in Washington.

The next day, protesters plan to march to the White House, where speakers will present a five-hour "history lesson" on annexation — which many regard as illegal — and related issues.

While this will be no "Million Man March" — there are, after all, fewer than half a million Hawaiians, a third of whom live elsewhere in the U.S. — organisers expect a few thousand participants, including other Polynesians, Native American nations and indigenous rights groups.

A traditional dance commemorating annexation is planned for August 9, and protesters will then switch to Hawaii with a demonstration on August 12 at the Iolani Palace.

Five years ago, to mark the centenary of the coup, President Bill Clinton signed an "Apology Bill" stating: "Congress apologises for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii... with the participation of agents and citizens

of the United States and the deprivation of the rights of Native Hawaiians to self-determination."

The United Church of Christ, too, has also said sorry for its complicity in the coup that paved the way for annexation.

Many Hawaiians appreciate the sentiments, but there is also a feeling that words are not enough. Since 1993, the Hawaiian economy has been stuck in recession, and conditions have worsened for many indigenous people.

As if to reinforce the point made by the radicals, New York's first exhibition of contemporary Native Hawaiian art opened in July, called "Did They Rob You?"

It is likely to shock those used to the Pacific-paradise image fostered by the Hawaii Visitors' Bureau. The colourful Hawaiian shirts, tikis (images of the ancient Polynesian gods), and grass skirts usually associated with Hawaii appear in this show only to be satirised. The theme is a scathing attack on the consumer society which has been thrust onto Hawaii by the U.S.

Ed Rampell is a freelance writer based in Hawaii. A film historian and critic, he is author of *Made in Paradise, Hollywood's Films of Hawaii and the South Seas*.

— Gemini News

King: Treatment progressing satisfactorily

(Continued from page 1)

and stand by you; my confidence in you unwavering and my hopes in you great.

I was really comforted by your action to set up an able and impartial commission to determine the responsibility for the contaminated water.

I trust the problem will end soon, if it hasn't ended already.

The important thing is that we realise that the provision of water, food, medicine and education in a safe and democratic environment is one of the main purposes of our life on all levels of government.

The recurring incidents of negligence, such as the near miss of two huge aircraft over Amman a few months ago, would have been a catastrophe that was avoided by God's grace.

Some air traffic control officials had decided to leave their place of work to pray; almost causing a tragic and horrific catastrophe, not to mention that such behaviour does not please God or man.

The measures taken against them were insignificant for fear of possible lawsuits that they may file and win against the government, an excuse that is worse than the sin itself.

Then comes the incident in the thermal station in Agaba due to lack of maintenance and negligence.

Then the recent issue of water.

All these incidents make it imperative upon us to take proper action against every mistake and act of negligence and for us all, government leaders and people, to deal with issues with a high degree of transparency, enabling us to identify without hesitation areas of weakness and flaws.

We are awaiting the report of the commission to find out who was responsible for neglecting the water filters until they became defective and ineffective.

As the waters of Lake Tiberias are still waters, just like the water in our dams, and unlike the running water of the Yarmouk River, who is the party responsible for not bothering to examine the still water, which we use and will continue to use, and which requires more treatment and more technical procedures to ensure that it is clean when it reaches the people, because of the presence of algae in it?

This is what we are anxiously awaiting to find out in order to take the appropriate action to deal with the situation once and for all, and to take the measures that will impress upon people in every position, that they must conscientiously perform their duties and that there is punishment and reward.

My dearest brother

My treatment is progressing well, thank God, and in a manner with which all my physicians are pleased.

I was pleasantly surprised today that they permitted me to leave Mayo Clinic for Washington for a few days of rest before starting the second cycle of chemotherapy next Wednesday, God willing.

Their decision came as a result of the tangible improvement in my condition, and after the improvement of the blood count which expectedly went down after the first cycle of treatment as well as the accelerated progress towards normalcy.

However, I was advised to avoid public places to protect against infection before the blood count goes back to normal and before starting the new cycle of treatment.

My morale is high and may the Almighty God bless us all and bless Jordan and all Jordanians.

You are all in my thoughts and I am with you always and Almighty God is with us all.

Your brother,

Hussein

Majali: government resignation was not discussed during trip

(Continued from page 1)

hold is, deterrent procedures have to be taken for the betterment of this country and ensuring these incidents are not repeated," he said.

"If it was proven that a person is responsible, even the prime minister himself, he should be punished," Dr. Majali said.

"But at the same time, we know that such incidents

are happening throughout the world, the latest of which was in Australia. This does not mean negligence. We should follow up and cooperate whether citizens or officials to prevent such incidents from happening again," he added.

"The investigating committee will not issue a verdict but the courts will do that and investigations are under way to reach the truth," the premier added.

Dr. Majali said that he did not discuss with His Majesty submitting the government's resignation as a result of the water scandal and the discrepancies in the figures of growth rate, which caused uproar in the country and led many to call for the government to resign.

"This was not discussed [with the King]," the prime minister said.

"A government does not submit its resignation outside the country. The Constitution is clear. The King has the authority to order the change or reshuffle of government when he sees a necessity for that," Dr. Majali said.

"The things have not developed to that extent and unfortunately, every now and then, we find some who wish or desire the [resignation] of the government," the premier added.

No losers, nor winners in peace equation

(Continued from page 1)

American initiative, which we cannot accept," he added.

"It is time for the American administration to introduce publicly and officially the proposals and the initiative which President Arafat accepted in March," Dr. Erekat said.

Mr. Kahalani, a member of the ruling coalition in

Israel, meanwhile, said that he was "optimistic" that Israel would soon reach an agreement with the Palestinian side.

"I told my friends here that we do care about the situation, and very soon I hope we will solve the problem," said Mr. Kahalani, who heads the Third Way Party.

"I talked to the prime minister this morning who

conveyed a message to the Prince. The message is that we are solving the problem and very soon we will bring the bridge to the gate and we really understand the interests of Jordan," he added.

Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani, who attended the two meetings, called upon Israel to implement the agreements it reached with the Palestinians and to

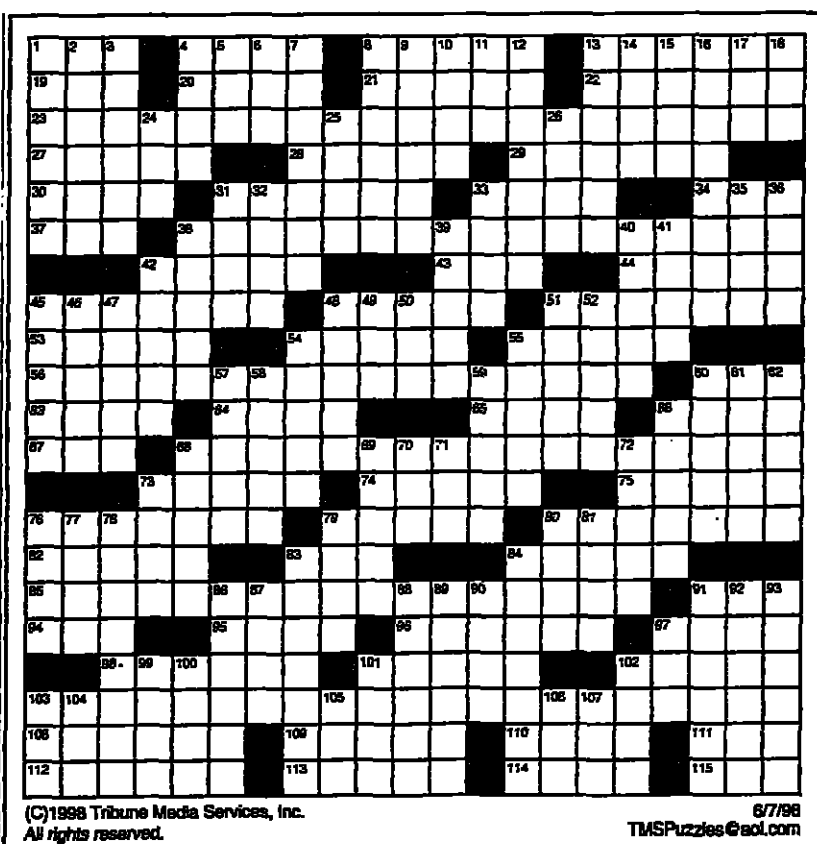
refrain from indulging in the "technicalities."

"We want the Israeli side to undertake an additional step that demonstrates its desire to make peace not only in words but also in deeds... and to sign a peace agreement between the two sides in a very short time," Dr. Anani said following the meeting between Prince Hassan and Dr. Erekat.

The Saturday Crossword

SOW SHOW
By Ed Voile, Gillette, Wyoming

- ACROSS
- 1 Spauld's defense
 - 4 Wander
 - 8 Frederick Loewe musical, "Your Wig"
 - 13 Doctrines
 - 19 Bossy fellow
 - 20 Musical melody
 - 21 Impertinent gaze
 - 22 Nation of Rome
 - 23 Political favors
 - 24 Brainstorm
 - 25 John Smith, perhaps
 - 29 Soup dispensers
 - 30 Rub out
 - 31 Verdi opera
 - 33 Traditional knowledge
 - 34 Land mass, abbr.
 - 37 Farm layer
 - 38 Making a chanoy
 - 40 Tapestry in "Hansel"
 - 43 Yoi
 - 44 Kidney enzyme
 - 45 Eased
 - 46 In front
 - 51 Gets by with less
 - 52 Like Cheesecake
 - 54 "Waiting for Lefty" dramatist
 - 55 Sri Lanka language
 - 56 Support one's family
 - 60 Mom-and-pop store
 - 63 Model
 - 64 Alvin to Jerusalem
 - 66 Humdrum
 - 68 Female
 - 69 Soak flux
 - 70 Amateur broadcasters
 - 73 Roman tyrant and others
 - 74 Finch
 - 75 "Marche" (orchestral authority)
 - 76 Lassos
 - 79 Embellishments
 - 80 Word used to describe snow
 - 82 We all
 - 83 Campus org.
 - 84 Laid
 - 85 Enjoy the lap of luxury
 - 91 Golf score
 - 94 Lasso or orange ending
 - 95 French city near Le Havre
 - 96 Plants of the arum family
- DOWN
- 1 Like a little devil
 - 2 Brain box
 - 3 Chosen one
 - 4 Reiner and Lowe
 - 5 End of pay?
 - 6 Broadcast
 - 7 Rick of "Cheesecake"
 - 8 Propelling a raft
 - 9 One of the three Graces
 - 10 French islands
 - 11 Reverse pic
 - 12 Group of three
 - 13 7-day U.S. tennis champion
 - 14 Latin & others
 - 15 Cager Archibald
 - 16 Pronunciation skips
 - 17 Yucatan uncle
 - 18 Diego
 - 24 Joy follower
 - 25 Spirited vigor
 - 26 Indian garb
 - 31 Continental prefix
 - 32 Meg or Irene
 - 33 Inverted facts
 - 35 Stopping wedge
 - 36 Jay, the comic
 - 38 Take along
 - 39 Look of the moon
 - 40 "Catch-22" star
 - 41 Outer banana
 - 42 Coeur d'Alene
 - 43 Temper
 - 44 Gen.
 - 45 Whistles
 - 47 Lying to one side
 - 48 Mac, Rogers St. Johns
 - 49 ... up (angry)
 - 50 Fractional ending
 - 51 Twinned crystal
 - 52 Love on the Loire
 - 54 Sharp and Epps
 - 55 Neutral shade
 - 57 Valentine shape
 - 58 "Miami Vice" co-star
 - 59 Political coalitions
 - 60 Beach
 - 61 Lehr and Lance
 - 62 Plus feature
 - 66 Get the ball rolling
 - 68 Former British PM
 - 69 Miniature
 - 70 Sundial three
 - 71 Can, province
 - 72 Getting the top grade
 - 73 Half a golf course
 - 76 Refrain syllables
 - 77 Saharan
 - 78 "of Fortune"
 - 82 H.S. junior's exam
 - 83 Foldaway bed
 - 84 Golchal
 - 85 Saudi leader
 - 86 Fussie
 - 87 More inclined
 - 88 Grossly wicked
 - 89 Most slippery
 - 90 Festive occasion
 - 91 German chemical
 - 92 carol, I.G.
 - 93 Ungrateful's foot
 - 94 Conciliate
 - 95 Line of inquiry
 - 96 Act offended
 - 97 Uncooked
 - 98 Tours to be
 - 99 Hand's breadth
 - 101 Greek peak
 - 102 H.S. junior's exam
 - 103 Foldaway bed
 - 104 Golchal
 - 105 Thai's neighbor
 - 106 Electronics co.
 - 107 Corner pipe



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Germany to help treat the injured and a Federal Bureau of Investigation team to probe the blasts.

A huge explosion ripped through Nairobi at 10.35 a.m. local time and was soon followed by another in the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam.

The timing — and the fact that both were car bombs and the targets U.S. embassies — left few observers doubting it was anything but a sophisticated, coordinated operation.

The scene in both capitals swiftly became chaotic, with one witness in Dar es Salaam saying the area looked like a war zone.

In Nairobi, scores of people were cut by flying glass as the explosion blew windows from office buildings up to five blocks away.

Hospital authorities in the Kenyan capital said over 1,200 people were injured in the blast and issued an urgent appeal for blood.

At one centre alone, the private Nairobi Hospital, administrator Mike Sheldon said: "We have received more than 200 people. Some are very seriously injured."

The biggest toll was at Ufundi House, a five-storey office block that is

home to a dozen or so small businesses and also a secretarial college.

The building, next door to the embassy, caved in, crushing to death scores of people.

The army had taken over digging operations, but some volunteer workers complained that the initial effort had gone towards helping U.S. embassy staff despite it being clear that Ufundi House had been worse hit.

"The Americans did nothing to help us," said Kariuki Chege, a volunteer who said he spent seven hours on the roof of Ufundi House.

Other workers echoed his sentiments.

"At the moment we have 37 people confirmed dead," said Oleno Oyoo, a deputy commissioner of police. But he said dozens more were believed buried beneath Ufundi House and the death toll was expected to rise above 80.

A U.S. embassy official in Dar es Salaam said six people were killed and 58 injured in the Tanzanian blast. No Americans were among the dead, but several embassy staff were injured.

Police said the Kenyan bomb had been planted in a Mitsubishi Pajero car parked in an alley between the embassy and

Ufundi House.

Eda Rubia, a management consultant who was walking near the embassy in Nairobi, said: "I heard a loud bang then the whole place was shaking and within a split second glass was falling on my head."

"It is all chaos," an official at Nairobi's main Kenyatta hospital said. "We are treating hundreds... too many, we can't say."

There, doctors and medical students were battling to deal with the overwhelming number of patients being brought in by ambulances, police cars, private cars and taxis.

U.S. Ambassador Prudence Bushnell was superficially injured in the attack but was back at work, officials said.

Kenyan Trade Minister Joseph Kamotho, whose office was next door to Ufundi House, was also injured and he was expected to remain in hospital overnight. Mr. Bushnell had just left Kamotho's office after a meeting to discuss U.S.-Kenyan relations.

The Nairobi blast rocked the city and a dense plume of smoke soared above the skyline.

The charred bodies of the some victims lay in the street near mannequins blown out of the

windows of nearby clothes shops.

Telephone and satellite links between Kenya, Tanzania and the rest of the world were affected by the explosions with banks and other businesses coming to a standstill.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi issued a statement condemning the attack and said the authorities would do everything possible "to bring the perpetrators of the heinous crime to book." He later toured the scene and visited some of the injured.

Julius Meme, Kenya's director of Medical Services, told Reuters that the response to appeals had been fantastic. "People have been donating blood, blankets, everything," he said.

Kenya and Tanzania have rarely been the scene of urban violence of this sort.

In December 1980, however, the Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi was flattened by a blast which killed 20 people and injured 80.

It was claimed by a shadowy Arab group in retaliation for Kenya allowing Israeli troops to refuel in Nairobi during their raid on Uganda's Entebbe airport to rescue hostages from a hijacked aircraft.

Ms. Albright said she had spoken to Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini who had offered his condolences and support.

Albright condemns 'arbitrary, cowardly' blasts

(Continued from page 1)

Ms. Albright said she had spoken to President Bill Clinton minutes before she appeared before reporters at Rome's U.S. embassy, which had lowered its flag to half mast in line with American diplomatic missions around the world.

"We are not going to rest until the cowards who committed this crime are caught and punished," she said. "We are certainly not going

to be intimidated by those who have no other values than hatred and death."

The Secretary of State, dressed from head to toe in black, said two U.S. military aircraft had taken off from Europe carrying essential medical supplies to the scene of the carnage in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

She thanked the British government in particular for its support on the ground in Nairobi and sin-

gled out the British High Commissioner there for special praise.

She praised U.S. citizens working abroad in countries "where dangers are many and comforts are few." "We should never underestimate the service of those citizens. They are on the front line," Ms. Albright said.

At least seven U.S. embassy staff or citizens were believed to have been killed in the Nairobi blast,

which ripped through the city at 10.35 a.m. Embassy official in Dar es Salaam said six people were killed and 58 injured there. No Americans were among the dead, but several embassy staff were injured.

Ms. Albright said she had spoken to Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini who had offered his condolences and support.

U.S., Jordan to sign \$50m grant Sunday

By Issam Qadamani
Special to the Jordan Times

The aspired-for trade with Palestinian areas was also hindered by tough Israeli measures.

Yusuf Mansur said in a column published in the Jordan Times recently.

The dearth of information, he added, has led people to accuse the government of lacking credibility, he concluded.

Dr. Khalaf said that the U.S. administration has given Jordan assurances that Kingdom will be receiving a total of \$225 million in 1999.

The statement came four days after the newly-appointed JTC chairman.

According to the government statement: "A

The statement followed the Higher Committee's meeting Tuesday afternoon, attended by Mr. Shukri and director general, Mamoun Balqar.

But he noted that it is not up to the JTC chairman to decide on such a matter because "there is a minister who is responsible for telecommunication policy before government and the Executive Privatisation Unit."

The JTC is the only

Yet the deal between the Fastlink and the earth station run by His Majesty's Royal Communications never materialised.

Sources requesting anonymity said that the deal was withheld because earth station had not been licensed to lease out international circuits. Mr. Shukri is the press confer-

RHODIA: FRENCH PARTNER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

TMS-Puzzles@aol.com

ACROSS

- 1 Peter the Great's life
- 5 Home —
- 10 Wane —
- 14 Land measure
- 15 French actor
- 16 Blustrious warrior
- 17 Versifier
- 18 "Moonlight Gambler" singer
- 19 Civil unrest
- 23 White-tailed eagle
- 21 Peters Prelude
- 20 Auk or murre, e.g.
- 25 S. very "tute decoration
- 26 Oracles to pals
- 27 Island of the Labyrinth
- 30 Tom's S-2 Red Boat

- 33 Acknowledge
- 36 Licks
- 37 Former service branch abbr.
- 38 Characteristic
- 40 Opposite of WSW

- 41 Brad's town in Scotland
- 43 Pinks out
- 45 Soft metal
- 46 Coverlet
- 49 Banks into the wind
- 53 Ex-presidents' Mustang
- 56 Crink for tw?'
- 57 Goren's father
- 58 Slur over
- 59 Part of a leg
- 60 Otherwise
- 61 Wanderer
- 62 Bontard
- 63 Recipe abbr.
- 64 Surpee order
- 65 As well

DOWN

- 1 Records
- 2 Twenty
- 3 Sports venue
- 4 Soak flux

By Terry Cleveland
Neenah, WI

- 5 Dieter's enemy
- 6 Gulf of Bothnia island
- 7 Surprise attack
- 8 Director
- 9 Warmteller
- 9 Simplest of procedures
- 10 Royal chair
- 11 Controls
- 12 Eat away
- 13 Complete
- 21 Preceding all others
- 22 Strike
- 24 Conrad or Barbara
- 27 Casual conversations
- 28 Beach
- 29 Ernesto

- 30 Took off
- 31 Play for a fool
- 32 "M-A-S-H" co-star
- 33 Reddie
- 34 Full hairpiece
- 35 Ultimate degree

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- 38 Sports car, for short
- 41 Mutt's crier
- 42 Oglers
- 43 Allicments
- 44 Buzzy
- 46 Shoe lace tip
- 47 Touches

- 48 Hold firmly
- 49 Encrypted
- 50 A Barmy one
- 51 Simon and Young
- 52 Domingo
- 54 Blackthorn
- 55 Senses count
- 59 Health retreat

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n' Jeff

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

"Someday you'll have to teach me how to tell the difference between purring and growling!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HUVOC

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

MASCH

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

THERTE

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

CHUROC

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

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Answer:

Yesterday's Jumbles: FIORD

YOUR

(Answers tomorrow)

ELOPE DENTAL EQUILATE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arlington

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Members of Lower House
convention to cancel

WITH SEVEN deputies have demanded the government take a quick and resolute action to annul the effect of the law which was issued by the Central Bank in 1974 in the Kingdom.

...that the failure by any client to
...of a loan would make
...due for repayment
...presented to Hon
...the deposits crossed the
...account

...and the severe crisis in
...of the state, passing through
...infallible Alarín said the circum-
...ing the banks to classify the loss
...of "incubated loans." The

the profit and the shareholders' interests which, in turn, will force us to use their assets and to move the hypothecated properties to improve the legal and financial situation of the Bank," Dr. Akail

...indicated that the circular
...the people who
...living require
...the parable
...which is direct

Power station
World Bank

...for commercial loans to Jordan
...to help establish a pow
...of 200 million w
...by the Wor

...and the bank w

HOROSCOP

QUEST FOR SATURDAY, AUG

With C. Black, Tripping Mad in S

March 21 to April 19) You will
be a hero for a couple of people who
are in prison. They're good at talking
on TV, but don't seem to do any

Ext April 20 to May 20) A couple
on night going up on you. They
want it to be and aren't taking
they're making a big mistake. I
to myself, at least for a while lo

May 21 to June 21: You're still
- curious. Your mind is racing at a z
- there's so much information and s
- stuck with things you can appl
- nearly your present job. You cou

June 22 to July 21: You love good things that way. Unfortunately, you're unwilling to negotiate unless you're in shape. You should be in shape to negotiate, so have at it. Chan-

July 22 to August 21) It's a good season and quite a savings could be your resources with a part of the very best deal. If you do that, it's a great deal to you, and show up at the

...something else, like dinner out
... (August 22 to September 22)
... may find some time to be alone
... arguing. You two have so much to
... seems to work on together, so mar
... don't get hung up on this.

24. (September 23 to October 22) Even if your work is cut out for you, keep going, so there's a conflict brew-

Q1010: (October 23 to November 2)
The backer in love, which is certainly
will have to do it.

ATTARIUS: (November 22 to Dec 1)

the family and real estate. Have you been buying real estate or moving? There would be a good weekend to move. I wouldn't be home, but you'd be going. BICORN: (December 22)

...achieving your goals, but you're not on your agenda. a trip is possible for some one is unlikely. You'll have

January 21 to February 18
and you may arouse latent financial
Again, teamwork is the solution
you can have what you want
yourself. The

Therefore, you must join and buy it together. This could take (February 20 to March 20) If you are reading material all week so you will be immersed in the language.

...well relax and enjoy it. It was bett
...the week anyway.

Hingis reaches quarter-finals

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — Defending champion Martina Hingis became the first player to reach the semifinals of the WTA Tour event here Thursday, when she beat South African Joannette Kruger 6-1, 6-3.

Second seed Lindsay Davenport, third seed Venus Williams and eighth seed Nathalie Tauziat of France advanced to the quarters with second-round victories.

Davenport, coming off a victory over Williams in Stanford last weekend, rallied from 2-4 in the second set to overcome fellow American Lisa Raymond 6-1, 6-4, and in another all-American clash Williams beat Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-2.

Wimbledon finalist Tauziat struggled to defeat American qualifier Amy Frazier 6-2, 3-6, 6-1.

Hingis was guilty of some careless play against a nervous opponent, but still claimed victory in just 49 minutes. In a match dominated by unforced errors, there were 10 breaks of serve in 16 games.

Kruger, who had earlier beaten seventh seed Irina Spireva and Iva Majoli, could not maintain the rallies.

Even so, Hingis squandered many points while under little pressure, often burying the ball in the net or sending it wide.

"Once you win the first set 6-1 you can lose concentration and just try to do a show and make some stupid shots that don't work out," said Hingis. "But somehow I got back into the match. And the lights are not very good and I use contacts any-



Martina Hingis hits a forehand return during her 6-1, 6-3 victory over Joannette Kruger at the Corel WTA Toshiba Tennis Classic at the La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad (Reuters photo)

way, and I had a hard time seeing the ball."

Williams injured her left calf during her Stanford battle with Davenport and is playing against the advice of doctors and her father Richard. But she showed no distress as her greater strength and reach gave her an advantage over the aggressive and often steadier Rubin.

"I was a little bit inconsistent and made some bad shot choices at times," said Williams, whose sister Serena was forbidden to play by her father because she dropped from an A+ to A- in computer studies.

"I should have kept the ball deep, and hit it short for no reason at all. I just managed to play the deuce

points and the ad points better."

While the Williams match consisted of many fiercely contested rallies, Davenport's victory over Raymond was notable for the number of limp exchanges that often ended with an unforced error.

"I thought I played pretty well the first set but I don't think she played too well. In the second set there were a lot of errors. It wasn't either one of our best matches by far," said Davenport, whose spirits are still high after winning what she described as one of her most difficult tournaments last week.

"I'm still a little bit tired maybe from such a long week, but confidence can

carry you a long way. Last week I played some great tennis, and even though I didn't play my best today I know I still have it in me." Davenport recovered from a slump after dominating the opening set in which she sped to a 5-0 lead, but Tauziat was unable to stage a similar comeback against Frazier.

Tauziat led 5-0, 4-0 before Frazier pulled herself into the match and won the next two games. And although Tauziat then served out for the set, it was Frazier who quickly established a 3-0 lead in the second. Tauziat was unable to recover from that setback, but then took a decisive 4-0 lead in the deciding set.

Rain delays Canadian Open

TORONTO (AP) — Rain throughout Thursday forced postponement of the day's schedule in the du Maurier Open tennis tournament.

Only three games were played all day and Yevgeny Kafelnikov won them all in taking a 3-0 lead over MaliVai Washington.

A light, intermittent rain delayed the afternoon session and it was raining more heavily Thursday evening when officials scrapped the schedule.

The highlight match of the day was to have been 10th-seeded Goran Ivanisevic against No. 8 Andre Agassi.

Twelve singles and doubles matches were affected. The forecast for Friday called for rain giving way to late-morning clearing.

The makeup schedule calls for winners of delayed third-round matches to play quarterfinal matches Friday night.

'Keep me in team' —Baggio

ROME (AFP) — Roberto Baggio sent Italy's new national coach Dino Zoff a message on Friday: "Keep me in the team!"

Baggio scored two goals and made two more as a reserve for Alessandro Del Piero in Italy's ill-fated campaign at France 98.

Now preparing for the new season with Inter Milan, in the wake of Cesare Maldini's dismissal as national coach, Baggio does not want to be left out of Zoff's plans for his debut against Wales on September 5.

"My desire to be in the national team is as strong as it is for all the other players," the 31-year-old insisted.

"And with my experience, I can't see any reason why I shouldn't be aiming for it," he added.

Zoff has so far kept silent over the team he will pick to face the Welsh in their qualifier at Anfield for the European championships in 2000.

The only comment made in public is that the possibility of Baggio and Del Piero playing together would depend on the players' physical condition.

The one certainty is that Italy's first home game under Zoff, another qualifier for Euro 2000 against Switzerland, will be in the new coach's 'home town' of Udine.

The Group 1 tie on October 10 was originally pencilled in for Milan's San Siro stadium.

Instead, Zoff has persuaded Italian football officials her to honour the northeastern region where he was born and grew up, and where he started his footballing career for Udinese in 1961.

His predecessor Maldini was allowed the same privilege, with his Italy starting against Northern Ireland at Trieste in January 1997, winning 2-0.



Brazilian soccer striker Ronaldo plays with a dolphin along with his girlfriend Suzana Werner, as they swim in an aquarium in a Cancun beach resort, in the southern state of Quintana Roo. Ronaldo is spending his vacation in Mexico after his national soccer team was defeated by France in the 1998 World Cup championship finals (Reuters photo)

De La Pena calls Ronaldo to Lazio

ROME (AFP) — Lazio's new signing Ivan De La Pena called on his former Barcelona teammate Ronaldo on Friday to quit Inter Milan and join him at the Rome club.

Lazio paid \$17 million for the gifted Spanish midfielder, after beating off competition from Ronaldo's present club.

"So for us to play together again, there's only one solution — he's got to transfer to Lazio," De La Pena said.

"This squad has great players and he would really enjoy playing here."

The Spaniard, who won the 1997 European Cup Winners Cup with Ronaldo, is meanwhile convinced the Brazilian ace will overcome the stress which culminated in convulsions on the day of the World Cup final.

"He's a strong person and I don't think he is paying

the price for all the pressure on him," De La Pena said. "Ronaldo's maturity is impressive, he's a young man who has grown up in a hurry."

"But I don't think there's any danger of burn-out because of the responsibility he has to bear. He's a good friend and I am proud to have played with him."

In the absence of Ronaldo at Lazio, De La Pena is putting his faith in the Chilean ace who rattled Italy in their first match at the World Cup finals, two-goal Marcelo Salas.

"He's a bit like Ronaldo — in that both players are fast and score a lot of goals," he said. "I think Salas could become the top scorer in the Serie A, getting at least 20 goals."

He summed up: "Lazio have the potential to win the championship, this is a

competitive squad," he told the Corriere dello Sport.

"I can't make any promises, other than the commitment to help Lazio fight on every front, right to the very end."

Lazio, last season's Italian Cup winners but UEFA Cup final losers — to Ronaldo's Inter, will be among the favourites for the Serie A and the European Cup Winners Cup this time around.

Coach Sven Goran Eriksson will get some early indications on Friday night, when his men turn out against Graeme Souness' Benfica in Lisbon.

De La Pena will be supporting Roberto Mancini and Igor Protti in attack, with Salas suffering from a groin strain while Lazio wait for transfer paperwork to come through from River Plate.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Pedersen leaves Blackburn for Strasbourg

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Blackburn's Danish striker Per Pedersen has signed up to play for Strasbourg on a three year contract worth \$1.48 million. The 29-year-old, who only joined the English Premier side from Odense in February, is hoping the move could act as a stepping stone to his re-selection on to the national side, according to a report in a Danish newspaper Friday. It says that Pedersen is prepared to accept a drop in pay at the French club in return for more action on the pitch than he enjoyed at Blackburn last season.

Coventry sign Jamaican international

COVENTRY (AFP) — Coventry City paid \$300,000 for winger Paul Hall from Portsmouth on a two-year deal here on Friday. The 26-year-old Jamaican international, who played in the World Cup finals in France, is expected to play against Espanol at Highfield Road on Saturday. Sky Blues' boss Gordon Strachan said: "Paul offers pace, work-rate and honesty. He can play on either flank which is useful to us because Paul Telfer and Noel Whelan are injured at present."

Ireland's De Bruin alleges conspiracy

DUBLIN (AFP) — Triple Olympic swimming gold medalist Michelle de Bruin confirmed here on Friday she would appeal against a four-year ban for tampering

with drugs test samples.

She also told a Dublin news conference of plans to seek "substantial damages" for the harm done by the announcement of the ban.

And De Bruin spoke of an attempt by FINA, the international swimming body, to ensure that she never again swam for Ireland or took part in any future Olympic Games.

The swimmer read a detailed statement, rejecting point by point the allegations made against her. She highlighted what she said "can only be described as a blatant and mischievous attempt to ruin my swimming career and my international standing."

She added: "In the course of work that he did in this case Peter Lennon (de Bruin's lawyer) has uncovered a significant body of evidence which leads one to the undeniable conclusion that it has been the intention of FINA to ensure that by whatever method I should take no further part in swimming and particularly should not be allowed to compete at the Sydney Olympics in the year 2000."

"I firmly believe that there has been a concerted effort on the part of FINA to ensure that I did not swim again and to ensure that by whatever method available to them a ban would be imposed."

De Bruin added: "We now go on to the appeal process which I know will prove my total innocence in all this."

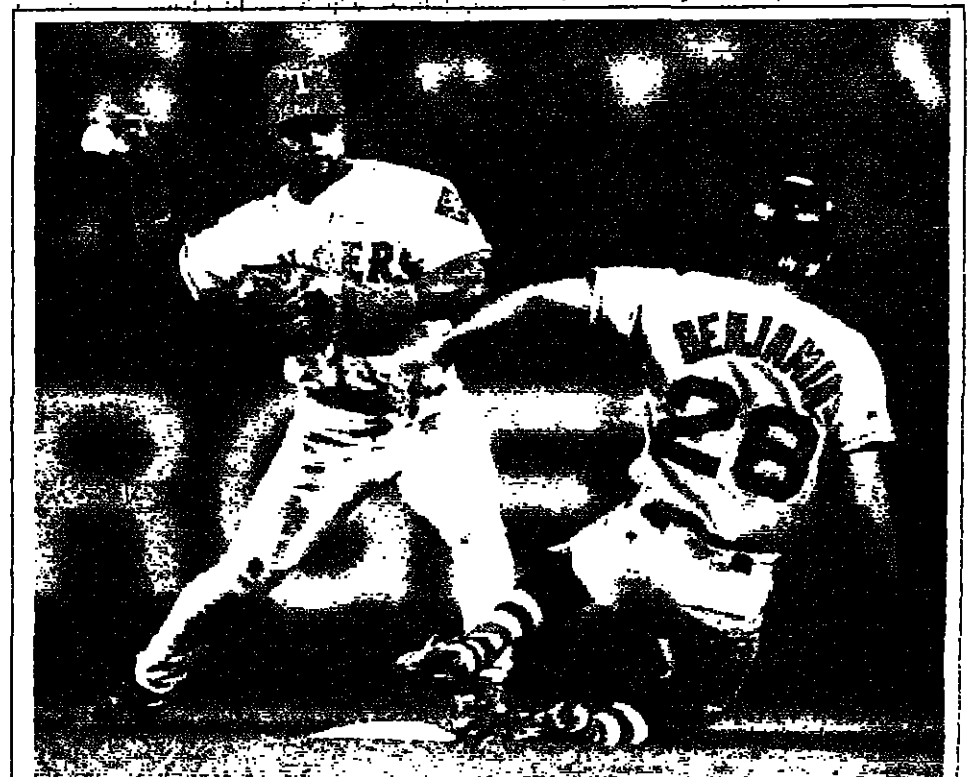
Lennon described as "absolutely bizarre" the FINA finding that his client had been guilty of manipulating a drugs test sample.

He declared: "They have produced no evidence to support this conviction, it is as simple as that."

He hoped the appeal proceedings would begin within four to six weeks.

De Bruin insisted: "I had no motive for introducing alcohol or indeed any other masking agent into my sample and I have never tested positive for any banned substance throughout my career."

"Despite their efforts FINA have been unable to get the drugs testing laboratory to issue a doping analysis report confirming the presence of any banned substance."



Texas Rangers second baseman Luis Alicea reaches for the ball as he forces out Boston Red Sox Mike Benjamin on a fielder's choice hit by Darren Lewis in the third inning at The Ballpark in Arlington (Reuters photo)

Cash boost for Asian Club Championship

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Extra cash prizes will be given in the Asian Club Championship as the continent's governing body seeks to strengthen support for teams.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) general secretary Peter Velappan said Friday that teams reaching the second round will get \$5,000 and those in the quarter finals a 10,000 bonus.

Velappan said "We are committed to doing everything possible to ensure club football gets the support it needs."

"But many of the competing clubs are not financially sound. By providing them with the cash incentives, we hope first to see a further improvement in the quality of their game."

The AFC is also to pay the expenses of all referees and officials in the championship. Previously the host team had to pay allowances and air fares for match officials.

"This move will again help take the financial burden off the clubs and encourage them to give their best to the tournament," Velappan explained.

The 18th Asian Club Championship starts on August 8 when Valencia of Maldives entertain Daewoo of South Korea.

The main action is set to begin in September. Defending champions Pohang Steelers of South Korea play Vietnam's Saigon Port on September 16.

Pohang beat Dalian of China 6-5 in a penalty shoot-out in the final played at Hong Kong in April. Dalian play their first game at home on September 19 against India's East Bengal.

The semi-final and final of the championship will be played at centralised tournament from April 28-30. The venue will be decided later. The quarter finals will be held in Lebanon from February 22-28.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSCH

HANG ON TO THE REINS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 6 2
♥ J 8 5
♦ 10 2
♣ A Q J 7 4

EAST
♠ J 9 8 7
♥ K 10 9 8 4
♦ 7 5 4
♣ A 8 5

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 5 3
♥ 5 2
♦ A Q 8 6
♣ K 6

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass Pass Pass
4♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

When a defender bids length in trumps, forcing declarer to ruff in an effort to seize trump control is an effective way to defeat the contract. However, declarer does not have to submit meekly to the fate the opponents have planned for him, as this hand illustrates. In the modern style, North's raise to two spades shows the same type of hand as would a simple raise bid.

PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yanes Theatre
Leonardo DiCaprio...in THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD Adel Imam & Yusra...in LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 CONCORD DUMB & DUMBER Shows: 3:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	STARTING JULY 13TH The Authority in the Service of the People Starring Hisham Yanes and the group For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155

By
JORDAN — Al Jazireh meet no...
able to basketball matches at t...
Summer-up last year. Al Jazireh...
Al Wihdat scored a convincing...
the other matches titleholders...
the team who had lost \$0-11 (3...
the competition groups." Team...
as teams are playing in Irbi...
to top four in the Amman gro...
team and Ibbin qualified from...
watch and Samma

	P	W
Al Jazireh	1	1
Al Wihdat	1	1
Al Faisalyah	1	1
Al Shabab	1	1
Al Nasr	1	1
Al Faisalyah	1	1

Australian p

IOC on the fi

BY AFP — Australia's se...
clubs have devised a strat...
International Olympic Commi...
to fight against d...

the IOC members, Phil C...
along with Austr...
Committee (AOC) presi...
have drawn up a 10-p...
before the IOC Execu...
month.

an IOC vice-president...
Australian submission wi...
ulating IOC policy in...
the worldwide confere...
in sports scheduled

there's more that sports o...
ments and the IOC can d...
to sponsors of athle...
positive," Coles said h...

all have to be case-by-case...
and it's a matter of stress

Festina bac

expulsion from

SEBASTIEN...
Three Festina...
expelled from...
France over...
allegations...
action in the...
Circuit Classic...
Sunday.

Swiss pair Alex...
and Laurent...
and France's...
Brochard make...
back less than...
after admitting...
ing drugs during...
questioning.

Alonso will act

as Festi...
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competi...
German

Mrs. Lynne Cariso

Philippian Nation...
your absence from your work...
Ambassy in Amman requir...
immediately, within 6 days, oth...
be dismissed from your job at...

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regional office.

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Tel. 566815 or 079-21...

Under-16 Basketball Championship Wihdat take on Al Jazireh today

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Jazireh meet newcomers Al Wihdat in the first of Saturday's Under-16 basketball matches at the Sports Palace.

Runner-up last year, Al Jazireh beat Al Raya 97-40 (53-20) in their first match while Al Wihdat scored a convincing 131-28 (58-14) win over Al Jeel.

In the other matches titleholders Al Orthodoxi play Al Jeel, while Al Raya meet Abu Nusair who had lost 80-11 (57-8) to last year's third place Al Ahli.

The competition groups 7 teams playing in the Amman Group A while the rest of the 5 teams are playing in Irbid's Group B.

The top four in the Amman group will qualify to the second round, while Al Hussein and Ibbin qualified from the Irbid group leaving behind Gazzet Hashem, Ashrafieh and Samma.

STANDINGS						
	P	W	L	SP	SA	PTS
Wihdat	1	1	0	101	28	2
Jazireh	2	1	0	97	40	2
Orthodoxi	3	1	0	80	11	2
Raya	4	1	0	11	80	1
Nusair	5	1	0	40	97	1
Ahli	6	1	0	28	131	1

Australian plan to go before IOC on the fight against drugs

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's senior sports officials have devised a strategy for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to continue its fight against drugs in sport.

Australia's IOC members, Phil Coles and Kevan Gosper, along with Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) president John Coates have drawn up a 10-point plan to go before the IOC Executive Board later this month.

Gosper, an IOC vice-president, will present the Australian submission with a view to formulating IOC policy in the leadup to the worldwide conference against drugs in sport scheduled for January.

"We think there's more that sports officials, governments and the IOC can do as regards talking to sponsors of athletes who test positive," Coles said here Friday.

"It would have to be a case-by-case situation (and) it's a matter of stressing

clearly in contracts what will happen to athletes if they test positive.

"Anyway, I've got a gut feeling that some sponsors feel funny about sponsoring druggies."

There is already provision to stop AOC and the federal government-backed Australian Sports Commission funding to athletes who return positive tests.

The 10-point plan also includes a proposal to introduce chemical markers into synthetic drugs to help in their detection.

But Coles admitted such a proposal was expensive and it was a matter that had to be considered in conjunction with the manufacturers.

Coles described the plan as a set of guidelines which could change significantly in the leadup to the drugs summit in January.

Del Piero takes legal action over drugs slur

MILAN (AFP) — Juventus star Alessandro Del Piero instructed his agent on Friday to start legal action against AS Roma Zdenek Zeman following thinly-veiled allegations of drug use.

Zeman claimed in an interview that drugs were in danger of turning the Serie A into another Tour de France, adding that he was amazed at the muscle development of Del Piero and ex-Juventus star Gianluca Vialli.

Juventus and Vialli both refused to comment on the Czech coach's claims on Friday, but Del Piero decided to counter-attack.

His agent Claudio Pasqualin announced that he will sue for damages, describing the accusations made in "L'Espresso" magazine as very serious, and damaging for the whole of football.

"Claiming that great champions have become what they are by taking drugs or doping substances is not only false but also irresponsible."

"It's sporting discipline and personal sacrifice that has been the basis of Del Piero's success," Pasqualin said.

"If Mr. Zeman knows something different to that, then he should address himself to the football federation authorities."

"In the meantime, given the unacceptable slur on his reputation, Alessandro Del Piero has already instructed me not only to begin the inevitable legal proceedings, but once permission has been granted from the federation, to seek appropriate damages from a civil court."

Juventus are currently at Udine, where they are preparing for Friday night's three-way tournament of 45-minute matches with Udinese and Inter.

A spokesman for the Turin club said there would be no comment by either Juventus executives or players on the Zeman affair, following a meeting on Thursday night to discuss the issue.

Vialli was meanwhile tackled on the subject as Chelsea's player-manager prepared for Friday evening's friendly against Parma at Palermo.

World Basketball Championship Karassev's 31 points lead Russia into semis past Lithuania

ATHENS (AP) — Vassily Karassev's 31 points and tight second-half team defense helped Russia beat Lithuania 82-67 Friday to move into the semifinals at the World Basketball Championship.

Karassev scored 19 in the second half and Sergey Babkov added 10 points and 6 rebounds for Russia, which next faces the winner of the quarterfinal between the United States and Italy.

Russia pulled away with a 9-0 run late in the second half, after Lithuania had closed to within 63-61.

Russia, silver medalist at the 1994 worlds, had used a 14-4 run — with Karassev scoring nine points — to go ahead 49-42 with 15:00 minutes left. It never relinquished that lead.

Lithuania, bronze medalists at the last two Olympics, went without a field goal for the first six minutes of the second half and shot just 17-of-48 (35 percent) from the field for the game.

The other quarterfinal matchups were Yugoslavia vs. Argentina and Greece vs. Spain.

The loss knocked Lithuania out of medal contention, a disappointment after the team handed the United States its lone loss at the tournament in preliminary round action.

And Lithuania led by as many as nine in the back-and-forth first half Friday, going up 32-23 with 3:20 remaining on two free throws by Seton Hall product Arturas Karnisovas.

There were five ties or lead changes in the opening 20 minutes, which ended with Lithuania ahead 38-35.

But Russia shut down Lithuania's high-scoring forward tandem of Karnisovas and Saulius Stombergas after the break. Stombergas finished with 17 points and Karnisovas with 14, but they combined for just eight in the second half.

Karassev, who plays in the German League, made 9-of-14 shots from the field and 12-of-14 from the free throw line.

The two countries used to supply players for the Soviet juggernaut that for years was the only true



Brasil's guard Demetrio Conrado Ferraciú is blocked by Jose Ortiz (L) of Puerto Rico during their place 9-12 conciliatory match of the World Basketball Championship in Athens' Olympic Stadium. Brasil won 64-76 (Reuters photo)

challenger to the United States in international play. In consolation games played Friday, former NBAer Andrew Gaze's 33 points led Australia past Canada 88-71, while Rogerio Klafke had 19 points and 7 rebounds as Brazil defeated Puerto Rico 76-64. The winners will play Saturday for ninth place, and the two losers will meet for 11th.

Festina back in action after expulsion from Tour de France

SAINT SEBASTIEN (AFP) — Three Festina cyclists expelled from the Tour de France over doping allegations return to action in the Saint Sebastian Classic here Saturday.

The Swiss pair Alex Zülle and Laurent Dufaux and France's Laurent Brochard make their comeback less than a month after admitting to taking drugs during police questioning.

Miguel Moco will act

as Festina's team director in place of the suspended Bruno Roussel who lifted the lid on the whole scandal when he admitted to police he had conducted a policy of administering drugs to the team under controlled medical conditions.

Teammate Richard Virenque will be missing from the Festina line-up as he is already competing in an event in Germany.

Four other Spanish teams who pulled out of the Tour in protest at what they regarded as police heavy handedness — ONCE, Banesto, Kelme and Vitalicio — have also chosen the Classic to mark their return to active competition.

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Israeli guard kills bedouin

BEERSHEVA (AFP) — An Israeli nature park guard shot and killed a Bedouin man overnight in a restricted military zone in the Negev desert, sparking protests by Arab Israeli leaders, officials said Friday.

Police arrested the Israeli after the incident, which occurred in a desert nature reserve that is also an army firing zone.

The guard, whose name was not given, was later released on bail.

The guard told police he encountered Salman Abu Jidla, 20, inside the restricted military area in the southern Israeli desert and opened fire when the man tried to flee, a police spokesman said.

According to an account of the incident presented at the guard's bail hearing, one member of an army patrol which also chased Abu Jidla opened fire as well, but he was not detained.

Abu Jidla was an Israeli

citizen who lived in the Negev.

Taleb al Sonaa, an Arab Israeli member of parliament, denounced the shooting as "murder" by "trigger happy" Israelis and said the incident was part of a broader campaign waged against the Bedouin in the Negev by government authorities.

He singled out

Environment Minister Rafael Eitan, a former army chief and national hardliner, who has demanded tough action to counter the expansion of Bedouin villages into so-called state lands in the Negev.

Eitan suggested among other things cutting off water and electricity to unauthorized Bedouin camps in the region.

Some 85,000 Bedouin live in the Negev and another 38,000 have settled in northern Israel and around Tel Aviv.



NEW FINDS DUG-UP NEAR TAFLEH: A statue of a woman (left), believed to be a Nabataean deity was unearthed at Al Darh dig, 10 kilometres north of Tafleh in southern Jordan. The statue and the other two busts (above) are believed to date back to the First Century AD. The excavations were carried by the Yarmouk University, the Sorbon and the French Archaeological Institute for the near east (text and photo by Ghazi Al Amrean)



U.N. looks headed for review of ties with Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council on Friday appeared headed for a review of its relations with Baghdad after calling Iraq's decision to stop cooperating with U.N. weapons inspectors "totally unacceptable."

In a statement after a closed-door council session on Thursday, the Security Council said Baghdad's move was "totally unacceptable" and urged it "not to implement its decision." The statement followed U.S. calls for a tough response to Baghdad's announcement on Wednesday it was halting cooperation with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with Iraqi disarmament, unless it was radically restructured.

Before the council statement, Iraq's deputy U.N. representative said U.N. inspectors in Baghdad would still be allowed to work but that teams attempting intrusive inspections would not receive Iraqi escorts essential for them to move.

Secretary General Kofi Annan, both during the council meeting and speaking later with reporters, proposed what he called "a more direct dialogue than has occurred hitherto" between Iraq and the council.

That reflected comments by

Two UNSCOM teams leave headquarters

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Two teams from the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with dismantling Iraq left the commission's headquarters on the outskirts of Baghdad on Friday morning.

Four UNSCOM cars were accompanied by members of the Iraqi national department of monitoring, but it was not clear where the cars were going or whether it was a monitoring or inspection mission, an AFP photographer reported.

chief U.N. weapons inspector Richard Butler, who has spoken several times of finding "a slightly new creative way" of avoiding the "repeated syndrome" of a standoff between the United Nations and Iraq.

Neither Mr. Butler nor Mr. Annan provided details. But there have been unconfirmed reports that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, who spoke with Mr. Annan by phone on Thursday, might come to New York soon.

The current standoff began after Mr. Butler rejected a demand by Mr. Aziz in Baghdad last Monday that he certify Iraq free of all weapons of mass destruction.

That would clear the way to Iraq's prime objective — an end to punishing sanctions in force since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq raised the stakes on Wednesday by saying it would no longer work with Mr. Butler's UNSCOM unless it was drastically overhauled and moved to

UNSCOM in Baghdad was unavailable for comment.

On Thursday, "five or six" UNSCOM teams engaged in long-term monitoring went out and encountered no problems, UNSCOM official Gustavo Flauvin told AFP.

An inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) charged with monitoring Iraq's nuclear capabilities was voluntarily cancelled, Flauvin said.

Geneva or Vienna from New York to eliminate what Iraq regards as U.S. influence aimed at maintaining sanctions indefinitely.

But both the Security Council and Mr. Annan have made clear that Iraq must abide by Gulf war disarmament resolutions.

Mr. Annan, like the council, made clear that Iraq was "clearly in violation" of council resolutions and of an agreement that he signed in Baghdad last February, intended to assure full access for U.N. weapons teams.

The February pact averted attacks against Iraq by the United States and Britain in response to Iraqi interference.

Mr. Annan said after Thursday's council meeting that he hoped military force would not be needed in the current situation.

"I hope it is not going to be necessary, but I think we need to be determined, and we need to press on," he said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton on

Israel links U.N. nuclear pact to U.S. guarantees

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has linked its approval of a U.N. agreement to launch negotiations on banning production of nuclear weapons materials to U.S. guarantees that such a pact will not damage its own nuclear weapons capability, the Haaretz newspaper reported Friday.

As of Friday, Israel was the only member of the 61-nation U.N. Conference on Disarmament withholding support for the launch of negotiations on a "cut-off treaty" banning production of fissile materials used to make nuclear bombs.

The conference, meeting in Geneva, had hoped for an Israeli response on Friday but a spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated it would take longer for the gov-

ernment to take a decision.

"The prime minister has been in contact with the United States and we have asked them to wait a few days because this is a sensitive and complicated matter," spokesman Aviv Bushinsky told AFP.

The Haaretz said Israel had conditioned its support for the negotiations on Washington providing "firm guarantees" that any future treaty would not involve sending international inspectors to Israeli nuclear sites.

Mr. Bushinsky would not confirm the report, only that Mr. Netanyahu was in contact with U.S. officials over the issue.

Israel has never publicly acknowledged having nuclear weapons but press reports said the country has built between

100 and 200 nuclear warheads at its nuclear facility of Dimona in the Negev desert.

The Haaretz said Israeli officials are worried that U.S. displeasure with the deadlocked Israeli-Palestinian peace talks had weakened the chances of getting a sympathetic hearing in Washington on the nuclear issue.

The U.N. Conference on Disarmament has been trying for years to launch talks on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). The effort received a

spectacular boost last week when Pakistan and India climbed on board under intense international pressure following the two nations' nuclear tests in May.

Vatican reminds Israel of Catholic Church autonomy

VATICAN CITY (AFP) — The Vatican responded Friday to the Israeli government's opposition to a newly-named bishop for Christian Arab Israelis with a firm statement that appointments were a matter decided only by the Holy See, ignoring reports that Vatican anger over Israeli meddling in its appointments, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday spoke out against the nomination of Pierre Mulleum for the Greek Catholic diocese of Akko, in Israel's northern Galilee region.

Mr. Netanyahu accuses the

bishop, blessed on Saturday by Pope John Paul II, of being close to Fawuk Kaddoumi, a senior, Tunis-based Palestinian official who is strongly critical of peace accords with Israel.

Vatican spokesman Ciro Benedettini reminded the Israeli government of a "fundamental accord" between the Roman Catholic Church and Israel which spoke of "the autonomy of the church and the state, each with its own realm."

"The nomination of bishops for the Catholic Church falls on the pontiff, exercising his highest

power," said Mr. Benedettini. Regarding "the nomination of Mulleum, the synod of the Greek Catholic Church had proceeded free of all type of outside pressure," he added.

Church sources in Jerusalem said Thursday that Mr. Netanyahu's office had intervened directly with Vatican officials in a bid to have an Israeli Arab priest, Father Emile Shufian, named bishop in Akko instead of Mulleum.

Sudanese talks end in disarray

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — Sudanese peace talks broke up in disarray Friday when the government rejected a joint communiqué stating that neither side would divert food relief for famine victims, even though talks on other key points had collapsed.

Foreign Minister Mustapha Osman Ibrahim said the government was not "committed" to the communiqué, blaming the collapse on the "rigidity" of the rebel delegation.

The talks were aimed at finding a political solution to the 15-year-old strife pitting the black Islamist and Christian south against the Arabised and Islamic north, which is estimated to have claimed a million lives and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

The communiqué acknowledged that the government delegation and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) could not agree on two key points: the definition of southern Sudan and separation of state and religion. They also disagreed on whether the country should be run on federal or confederal lines before a referendum on the future of the south.

"The talks collapsed," SPLA official John Luk Jok said at a news briefing.

The communiqué said the two teams had agreed "not to divert relief supplies, and, further, not to use those supplies for military or political purposes."

At the last round of talks in May, the two sides agreed to hold a referendum deciding on "unity or outright secession" for the south — without deciding when to do so.

During this week's talks, they could not agree on which areas made up southern Sudan for the purpose of the referendum.

Nor did they agree in May on how the south would be governed in the meantime.

This week, the SPLA proposed ruling by confederation until the vote is taken while demanding that three central areas have the option to split off from the north.

Those areas include the mainly black-African regions of southern Kordofan, southern Blue Nile and Abyei.

The southerners proposed two separate states — each equipped with its own army "because we don't trust each other," SPLA spokesman Pagan Amum told AFP.

The government delegation, however, proposed a federal system.

Another issue that stymied the talks was the separation of state

from religion.

Each side blamed the other Friday for the failure that has hit southern Sudan and threatens the lives of more than 2.5 million people.

At the opening ceremony, Organisation of African Unity Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim called for an urgent solution to the "senseless and self-destructive" war.

"This conflict has been a stigmatisation of the entire continent," Mr. Salim said, referring to the images flashed round the world of starving adults and children.

The communiqué said the two sides had agreed to meet again in Nairobi within six months.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan offered to mediate if both sides and IGAD invited him to do so.

Delegates from both sides told AFP they welcomed the offer.

The SPLA declared a three-month ceasefire in the southern areas wrested by the famine in mid-July.

That truce was quickly

Netanyahu 'trying to balance competing demands on pullback'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday he was trying to strike a balance on how much territory should be handed over to the Palestinians in the long-delayed Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank.

Also Friday, an Israeli newspaper published maps it said showed the rival demands being made by right-wing and leftist elements in Netanyahu's coalition government.

The choice is between land in the West Bank hill region, which is densely populated with Palestinians and where most of the Jewish settlements are located, and land in the largely unpopulated Judean Desert, which Israel has traditionally wanted to retain for security reasons.

The United States has proposed that Israel give up 13 per cent of the West Bank in this long-delayed troop redeployment. The Palestinians reluctantly agreed, although they had hoped for much more territory.

Mr. Netanyahu for several months rejected the 13 per cent as excessive, on the grounds that too many Jewish settlements in

the West Bank would be surrounded by Palestinian-controlled territory as a result.

In an attempt to bridge the gap, Mr. Netanyahu recently suggested that three of the 13 percentage points consist of land in the sparsely populated Judean Desert, which the Palestinians would receive in the form of two nature reserves where no housing could be built.

This proposal is opposed by the Third Way, a centrist party in Netanyahu's coalition government. Third Way lawmaker Yehuda Harel said Israel should retain the Judean Desert both for security reasons and because very few Palestinians live in it.

Mr. Harel said the entire 13 per cent withdrawal should be from

the hill region, precisely because that is where most of the Palestinians live.

However, if Mr. Netanyahu complies with the Third Way's demand, far right parties in the coalition threaten to bring down the government.

Interviewed on Israel Radio Friday, Mr. Netanyahu said security concerns, not trying to keep his coalition together, were his top priority. "A balance has to be found between the two security considerations," he said.

Later, he told reporters: "There is no reason why we can't achieve an agreement with the Palestinians in short order. It requires negotiations... and we're prepared to engage in this."

The two maps appeared in the news-

paper Haaretz two days after Mr. Netanyahu submitted to his 12-member security cabinet maps showing alternative proposals for the Israeli withdrawal. The prime minister's office refused to confirm whether the maps published by Haaretz were the maps submitted to the security cabinet.

Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky said only that "these are not the final maps of the negotiations." Palestinian officials have already rejected the Judean Desert proposal.

PNA Minister Hassan Asfour said the Palestinians have no objection to accepting existing nature reserves, but will not agree to set any up for the purpose of preventing Arabs from living there.

Netanyahu insists Arafat condemn killing of settlers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded Thursday that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat publicly condemn the slaying this week of two West Bank settlers by suspected Palestinians.

"Arafat must denounce these killings, and I hope he will," Mr. Netanyahu told reporters as he reiterated calls for the Palestinian National Authority to take tougher action against armed militants in areas under its control.

Mr. Netanyahu also confirmed that he had spoken by telephone with Mr. Arafat on Tuesday for the first time in months and urged a renewed effort to break the 17-month-old deadlock in peace negotiations.

"I spoke with Arafat two days ago and suggested we try to avoid the public polemics as much as possible and engage seriously in the negotiations to complete interim agreements between Israel and the Palestinians," he said.



Premature babies jobless in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (R) — Premature babies are going to have a tough time finding work in Hollywood under a new law signed by California Governor Pete Wilson. The statute, signed into law this week, prohibits the use of premature babies under the age of one month in TV and films. The law was passed at the urging of the Screen Actors Guild.

Painted or not: No nudity in Venezuela

CARACAS (AFP) — Eleven male students wanted to expose the flaws of a plan in Venezuela to start charging tuition for universities, but police were barely amused. The eleven — whose nude bodies were painted blue — were arrested during a protest march and branded "sexual deviants" by the head of the Caracas Metropolitan Police, General Francisco Belisario. "It is not proper behavior for men to show themselves in the nude before the public," said the police chief.

Pot by accident

STOCKHOLM (R) — An unlucky collision with a moose landed a Norwegian driver in hospital and then in jail when police found 28 kilograms of hashish stashed in his wrecked car. Swedish newspaper Metro said the crash happened at Svinensund in Sweden close to the Norwegian border when a moose ran out of the forest and in front of the car. The driver was taken to hospital in Fredrikstad, Norway. When his car was towed to a nearby garage for repairs, mechanics discovered the stash of hash and reported it to the police.

Medical check for transsexual soldiers

LONDON (R) — A British army medical board checked to see if the force's first transsexual sergeant major was fit enough to be a soldier. Joseph Rushton, a 37-year-old soldier who started taking hormone treatment to become a woman nearly two years ago, has said he believed he would stay in the army. But defence officials said the medical board had to determine whether Rushton met the army's fitness standards.

Film star Kurt Russell to play Ataturk

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Hollywood film star Kurt Russell is tipped to replace the Spanish actor Antonio Banderas in the leading part of a movie on the life of Turkey's national hero Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the Turkish daily Milliyet reported Thursday. Citing the film's producer Tarquin Olivier on a recent visit to Ankara, Milliyet said no official offer had been made yet, but Russell had been sounded out and seemed enthusiastic about the project.

To all Russians: Do not kill cats

MOSCOW (R) — A Moscow court has sentenced a man to six months' correctional labour and a fine for killing a cat which he threw out of his apartment window for eating his minced meat, a Russian daily newspaper said. Kommersant Daily quoted judges as saying the conviction of Vladimir Kotov, whose surname ironically derives from the Russian word "kot" (cat), was meant as a message to all Russians.

15 dead in Cyprus h

At least 15 people died and hundreds were injured in a bombing in Cyprus, the authorities said. The explosion, which killed by the heat, caused temperatures to continue to rise. Health Minister Cebus Cebus said that health-care facilities across Cyprus were overwhelmed by hundreds of people suffering from heatstroke and diarrhoea, the ministry said. Temperatures have risen above normal during the last week of the summer and are expected to last until Wednesday.

Kenyan re

Kenyan workers continued to search for the wreckage of a plane which crashed in the U.S. on Saturday. The plane, which left more than 100 people dead, was on its way from Nairobi to New York. The wreckage was found in the city where it had crashed. The plane was carrying 100 people, including 100 injured as it was sending a message to the victims of the crash.

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By Francesca Ciriaci

day. — The cases of negligence on Friday by His Majesty King Arafat an urgent need to devise a effective procedures to hold offi- sible for their deeds.

in 1989 has created a cli- for social justice, sociologists say citizens agree that civil ser- vices and enjoy powers exceed- ing those of the King.

changes in our society, includ- the affirmation of the ideas of "transparency and accountability," said soci- ologist.

transparency is still that certain circles or families." Regard, the King expressed dis- sime with the way the government is with "recurrent incidents of negli- gence the King said he was hopeful of an inquiry established last